USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JANUARY 14, 1953

Saving our bounty

FOOD PRESERVATION is sponsored by the Food Distribution Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration. It is geared to prevent waste by helping to find outlets for fruit and vegetables raised locally without waste, and also in cases where the Department finds it advisable to handle surplus perishables removed from the market under price-support programs. This work is carried out under authority of section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act revised, which relates to the expansion of domestic food markets—especially when the harvest is bounteous and the demand slack.

Technical help is given in the development and improvement of nonprofit community canning centers run by communities, schools, and public and private institutions. Demonstrations, technological know-how, bulletins and canning plant layout designs, and timely information in all phases of sound food-preservation practices are employed in this continuing effort. In most cases section 32 food-preservation work of the Branch is carried out through State agencies concerned with operation of such processing plants. Arrangements for using canneries for processing Government-donated products are made with the State Distributing Agency and the agency responsible for operation of the individual plants.

Current data show that there are about 322 institutional canneries with a total daily capacity of 3,500,000 pounds of products in 44 States reporting. Many of them have been used to handle section 32 commodities for eligible schools and institutions. Besides these plants, approximately 1,600 steam-operated community canneries were in operation in 34 States in 1950. More than 500 canneries are equipped to use glass jars as well as tin containers. More than 75 percent of these plants are in the Southeast.

Where community canneries are not present, many schools process in their kitchens for the lunch program. Among these are 958 in Ohio, 940 in Michigan, 833 in Tennessee, 740 in Minnesota, 670 in Wisconsin, and 575 in Iowa.

Additional aid in utilizing Government-donated frozen turkeys, cheese, and butter and for preserving fruits and vegetables has come from the local frozen food locker plants. In promoting the best use of products supplied for the National School Lunch program and other direct distribution projects, these 12,000 locker plants have been invaluable.

All this activity stems from World War II food preservation campaigns. Canning centers were set up under the Food Production War Training program of the Office of Education, with the Department providing much technical guidance and financial aid. Today PMA personnel continue to provide assistance to school and community canning plants through the Vocational Education Offices of the State Departments of Education.

BAI retirements

The Personnel Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, lists age-required retirements of noteworthy employees which occur in January and February. They are Birtwhistle MacCormack, virus-serum inspection, Kansas City, Kans., Herbert Martin, general investigator, New York, N. Y., John H. Muller, livestock inspection, Baltimore, Md., William J. J. Pooley, meat inspection, South St. Joseph, Mo., and two meat inspectors, Charles E. Richardson, Kansas City, Kans., and Edward R. Saunders, St. Louis, Mo.

Win award jointly

The Joseph Harvey Gourley award in pomology was made lately to Leon Havis and Mrs. Brooke Meanley (formerly Anna L. Gilkerson), Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. They were honored for research covering fertilizing and pruning peach trees.

Geology award

Sterling B. Hendricks, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., received the Arthur L. Day gold medal recently from the Geological Society of America. It was accorded to him for outstanding work in the application of chemistry and physics to geological problems.

Patent pointers

SECURING PATENTS for Department inventions and discoveries is a topic that must be appreciated fully, for unless a carefully planned program of this nature is understood and carried out, many of the fruits of patient and brilliant research by our fellow workers may be forfeited. As the Department has one of the largest research organizations in the world, the obtaining of patents is an important supplement to its scientific activities.

You ask "Why should the Department bother to get patents? Is it not sufficient simply to disclose its inventions in other forms of publications reaching the public?" The answer is that the object of Department research is to benefit the public. An invention made as a result of Department research belongs to the public, who paid for it through taxation. Hence the public should not be obliged to pay twice for the same invention. Double payment like this would be possible when a Department invention is not patented by the Department itself, and thus have the field left open for someone else to take precedence and get a patent on the same invention. Publication of an invention is not a barrier to the granting of a patent to another, if the other person's application is filed with the U. S. Patent Office within 1 year of its publication date, and if the applicant can show that he made the invention prior to the date of the aforesaid publication, even though after the date of invention by the author.

A new revised edition of the USDA Patent Manual is listed as Miscellaneous Publication No. 551. It was drafted jointly by W. L. Cheesman, Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Peoria, Ill., and T. A. Seegrist, Office of the Solicitor. It was sponsored by the USDA Committee on Patent Policy consisting of 10 authorities from the Agricultural Research Administration, the Production and Marketing Administration, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Office of the Solicitor. Write for copies to the Office of the Solicitor, care of Fred Herzer.

Nelson transferred

Lewis B. Nelson, soil specialist with the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, has transferred from Fort Collins, Colo., to Beltsville, Md., where he will supervise research in the relation of different fertilizers to various soil types. A native of Idaho, Mr. Nelson was associate professor of soils at Iowa State College before joining USDA in 1949.

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Bulletin builders

"PARTNERSHIP PLANNING for Popular Publications" was the theme of a 3-day USDA Publications Workshop held in Washington late in November and attended by well over a hundred Department staff members particularly concerned with publications, including administrators, editorial and illustrations people, and some subject-matter workers, and a few State editorial authorities.

Resulting from the workshop, Director of Information R. L. Webster told the group at the closing session, will be: (1) Additional workshops or conferences for smaller groups on various phases of publications work; (2) studies of the effectiveness of publications on the farm and in the home; (3) increased impetus in the Department's important program of revising out-of-date publications; (4) closer cooperation between the Department and the land-grant colleges in publications work; and (5) a report on the workshop designed to carry the information presented there to those who were unable to attend.

Stressing the importance of publications in the Department's programs, Assistant Secretary Knox T. Hutchinson told the meeting that publications serve as a foundation for information services for rural people. Assistant Agricultural Research Administrator Harry Trelogan, speaking on "Agricultural Research and Popular Publications," said that the success of research in the United States has been largely due, not merely to superiority of our scientists, but to our accomplishments in translating science for the use of farmers, consumers, and marketers.

Field representatives participating in the workshop included five staff members of the Forest Service, one from the Soil Conservation Service, and seven extension and experiment station editors from six land-grant colleges. A committee of about 25 Department information people, headed by Deputy Director of Information James H. McCormick, made the plans and arrangements for the workshop.

Incidental to the workshop, and of continuing interest since, is a graphic display prepared by the USDA Exhibits Service to demonstrate that partnership of many skills goes into the planning, production, and distribution of Agricultural bulletins.

Join USDA Welfare Association

Death of Dr. Merrill

Melvin C. Merrill, Ph. D., who retired from the Office of Information in the Department December 31, 1949, after a quarter of a century as chief of the Division of Publications, died December 22 at his Washington, D. C., home, after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife, one daughter, four grandchildren, and four sisters. Dr. Merrill was born in April 1884 in Richmond, Utah, a son of a Mormon pioneer and apostle, Marriner Wood Merrill, and Maria Kingsbury Merrill. He graduated from Utah State Agricultural College and later earned degrees in advanced work at Cornell, University of Chicago, Harvard University, and Washington University, St. Louis. After teaching high school, he spent some time directing the Baguio Experiment Station at Manila, subsequently teaching at Idaho Technical Institute and serving as head of the Utah State College horticultural department, also as dean of applied sciences at Brigham Young University, and in research work at Missouri Botanical Gardens. During his career in USDA, he had charge of the Journal of Agricultural Research, served on the directorate of the Graduate School, and helped organize and was an officer of the OPEDA, or professional employees' unit. He was a member of many leading scientific and professional societies and fraternities. Just a week prior to his demise, Dr. Merrill visited the *USDA* office with words of encouragement and good will.

Rescue by foresters

THE FOLLOWING letter has been received by Regional Forester Lindh from J. Peery Francis, Sheriff of Coconino County, Arizona:

I wish to express my appreciation and that of the citizens of this county and the State of Arizona for the help given us by the Coconino National Forest personnel, and for all the equipment used, in the recent hunt for lost and stranded elk hunters in this area. A sudden snowstorm caught about 1,000 hunters in the country surrounding the Mogollon Rim, and but for the combined efforts of all of us, many more of them would have perished.

For about 2 weeks the personnel of the Forest Service, using available equipment, worked night and day in the cold and snow to help rescue many hunters who might otherwise have died. We feel that we are indeed fortunate in having such an organization here, for we have never failed to get help from them whenever we needed it.

Without the help of the Forest Service personnel, I feel sure that many more hunters would have lost their lives than did this time. That is such a big, rough country, and with so many hunters in there, it was an almost impossible task to comb it quickly enough to get everyone out. But we did the best we could, and it is a source of pride to this office that Forest Service personnel in this area never hesitate to lend a hand no matter how tough the going might be.

Retirement of Alfred Lee

After 43 years of continuous service with the Bureau of Animal Industry, Alfred R. Lee, poultry husbandman, has retired. He entered USDA poultry work when there were but two employees engaged therein. He is the author of numerous scientific publications, farmers' bulletins, and popular articles, and was co-author of "Poultry Feeds and Feeding," issued in 1922 as one of the first books of its kind. Mr. Lee was preeminently an answerer of poultry questions during his service and holds an unchallenged record in that activity. He is a native of Massachusetts and holds a B. S. degree from Rhode Island State College.

Extension pioneer

MEMORIES OF early day county agricultural agents are timely now because of the golden jubilee of farm demonstration work this year. One such reminder comes from a fellow employee who has vivid recollections of the influence that a pioneer county agent had in his home community. May we hear from others?

It was during the early part of the First World War that Dad came home from his weekly trip to town with the news that we had a county agent, who was telling folks that there was a need for most everything that could be produced on our farms. We had been reading about this war need but it took Mr. Holland, our first county agent, to give realism to it. Later on the boys being called up for the draft, and still later, the news of the deaths of John Tully and Walter Sewell—close neighbors of ours—gave impetus to our county agent's plea.

We were soon trying out new things. We tried out a new variety of corn—the State College said it would do better than the corn we had. Besides it was yellow and the buyers wanted yellow corn instead of the white flint we had been growing. More of the hill land was planted to cotton and some of the meadow and pasture was plowed up and planted to oats and lespedeza, sudan grass, and other such things to get a better yield of hay.

Mr. Holland drove by our home frequently. He used a one-horse buggy at first, but it proved too much for "old Nellie" so he had to use two horses. He often arrived at our house at meal times when he would talk about the corn and pig clubs. I liked the idea from the beginning but it took both Mr. Holland and Mother to convince Dad that I should have an acre of corn and pig of my own. It was during these Club days that I took a little more than the usual interest in farm bulletins and articles on corn and hogs.

Perhaps Mr. Holland had more influence than I realized at the time on my choosing a profession. I wasn't the only one either. There were several fellows from our county who went to State College to prepare themselves to become county agents and agricultural teachers.

I know of no stone monument that has been erected to County Agent Holland. But I do know that changes for the better in farming and farm living which were started back in those days have persisted and have been improved up to the present. Each morning trucks pick up whole milk produced by cows—descendants of old "Tubby" our first registered Jersey bull. Pastures and meadows started then are now much more productive. REA power has replaced the home power plant installed in 1917. County Agent Holland was a part of a pioneering movement. He wasn't well trained technically but what he lacked he made up with a crusading spirit for things he considered worth while for the people in our county at that stage of our progress.

Lift Canadian ban

As of March 1, 1953, the embargo and quarantine against imports of livestock and livestock products and related materials from the Dominion of Canada will be lifted—unless no fresh outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease occurs across the border. The embargo was imposed in February 1952. Great credit for stamping out and holding the disease in check is given to Canadian sanitary officers by our Bureau of Animal Industry.

Pain and penalties

ACCIDENT COSTS suffered by Department employees during 1951 amounted to more than $2,000,000, according to William S. Harris, retiring chairman of the USDA Safety Council. That computation, Mr. Harris explained, is based on statistical tables published by the U. S. Bureau of Employees' Compensation. These figures show that the nearly 1,600 disabling injuries included 29 fatalities and resulted in the loss of some 244,000 days during that period.

Expenditure for duty-incurred injuries includes medical, leave, and compensation costs and is equivalent to an expenditure of $28.55 for each employee of the Department of Agriculture, according to Bureau of Employees' Compensation computations. While these figures leave no doubt that injuries are extremely costly, they fail to measure the pain and suffering experienced by injured employees.

What is being done to prevent this drain on our available manpower and funds?

The Department of Agriculture has made considerable progress in its organized efforts to reduce the toll of accidents. The Bureau of Employees' Compensation figures show that the accident frequency rate (number of disabling injuries per million man-hours) for the Department was 10.4 for 1951, as compared with 18.4 in 1940. This rate is slightly higher than the average for the Federal Government as a whole.

Although much progress has been made, Mr. Harris emphasized that we have not kept pace with the example set by progressive private industries. He noted that many of these industries have almost entirely eliminated disabling accidents as a result of concentrated safety efforts. The conclusion—it is an obligation of every supervisor and employee to encourage safety at work and avoid so much suffering and loss.

Soils men transfer

M. L. Nichols, formerly in charge of research for Soil Conservation Service, is now with Dr. A. H. Moseman's office in the Plant Industry Station as special assistant. James H. Stallings and Russell E. Uhland have left the SCS staff to assist Dr. F. W. Parker in planning future developments.

Ever eat potato bars?

Scientists of the Department's Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, working with the U. S. Army Quartermaster's Corps, find they can crumble up potato chips and press them under 4,000 pounds pressure into 3-inch long bars that reduce the bulk of the chips and make them easier to ship and store. They contain all the original nutrition of the potato chips and should resist spoilage for over 4 months at high temperatures.

Incentive awards

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS submitted to supervisors in 26 bureaus, agencies, and offices of the Department during fiscal year 1952 totaled 2,418, with eight agencies reporting none received. Based on the year's average number of employees, all suggestions received equaled only 3.5 per each 100 employees. Suggestions adopted represented 32 percent of those submitted during the year.

Forest Service with 763 suggestions received from its employees ranked first, and 413 of these suggestions were adopted. But based on the ratio of suggestions by employees to actual employment volume, the leaders were Farmers Home Administration, 10.6 suggestions per 100 employees, Rural Electrification Administration, 8.7 per 100, and Forest Service, 5 per 100.

Under Public Law 600, 85 Superior Service Awards and 9 Distinguished Service Awards were made in fiscal 1952, and under the same statute 331 Cash Awards for Suggestions were made. Under Public Law 429, Step Increases for Superior Accomplishments went to 175 employees, while Efficiency Awards in cash went to 11 employees. This totals 621 awards granted, which figures to 0.8 per 100 employees. The cash awards for fiscal year 1952 amounted to $12,157.50 with an estimated first year's savings footing up to $233,093.60.

According to the opinion expressed by our Office of Personnel, the awards program to operate well and have any substantial incentive value must be generally made known to all employees by the supervisors. Supervisors, it is pointed out, should be well informed of the plan and the standards established for it, so they will be alert to give employees encouragement when they deserve recognition.

French market progress

After spending a couple of months in France at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture there, H. L. Harrington, New York office of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration reports on recent progress abroad. He says France has adopted market standards for several fresh fruits comparable to standards proposed at the European level. They have a market news service under test which started last April and was put on a permanent basis at Lyons last November. The standardization work is intended to tie in with the market news service eventually.

Maddox promoted

Edward Maddox has been named assistant chief of the telephone loans division in the Rural Electrification Administration, where Richard A. Dell is the chief. Mr. Maddox is from Missouri and has had wide experience in the telephone field since 1929, and came to REA for the first time in 1950.

Federal accountants

THE FEDERAL Government Accountants Association made history again when it presented its Second Annual Symposium in November 1952. More than 1,000 Federal Government accountants and finance officers attended the sessions in the Departmental Auditorium in Washington, D. C., which was devoted to consideration of the subject, financial reporting.

Representing Federal agencies closely identified with Government accounting and financial activities and thoroughly in accord with the aims of the Association to promote efforts to improve accounting in the Federal Government were the Assistant to the Comptroller General of the United States, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, and the Administrator of the General Services Administration.

The Federal Government Accountants Association is in its third year. Established in 1950 as an independent organization of professionally qualified accounts in the Federal Government, the Association has demonstrated by its rapid growth and the interest in its activities the existence of a need for such a group to give impetus to improvement in accounting and support to the Joint Accounting Program officially sponsored by the Treasury Department, the General Accounting Office, and the Bureau of the Budget.

Including the Washington area and field chapters at Kansas City, St. Louis, and Denver, USDA enrollment in the membership consists of 27 from PMA, 13 from REA, 10 from FHA, 8 from B & F, 2 each from FCA and FCIC, and one apiece from BAI, CEA, and FS. John C. Cooper, Budget and Finance, is director of programs for the association.

A 15-page bibliography on financial reporting prepared by the Research Committee of the Association may be obtained by writing to the Association, Box 53, Washington 4, D. C.

Klingman succeeds Stahler

D. L. Klingman is the new coordinator of weed investigations in the North Central States, with headquarters at the regional office of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering at Columbia, Mo. L. M. Stahler resigned in September 1952 to join the Pacific Borax Co.

SCS aids ACP

Fully half a million of the conservation farm practice plans on which agricultural conservation payments were made in the last fiscal year were of the permanent types planned by the Soil Conservation Services technicians. This was the record of the first full year of the program wherein permanent ACP practice plans were developed by SCS.

Reader's reminders

Corn borer sickness

Will it finally be practicable to control European corn borers with disease spore spreading like the milky white disease used successfully with the Japanese beetle? Nobody knows for sure, but USDA and Iowa State entomologists have located a type of microscopic protozoan that infects female borers and reduces their life cycle, cuts their egg deposits, and hurts egg hatchability considerably. Preliminary field sprays with spores of the disease have been made, but the disease itself is widespread in a natural state in several Midwest States. More details on this from Editor of *USDA* by asking for No. 2682.

Chemical fly baits

Chemical baits used in recent trials at the Orlando, Fla., laboratory of USDA's Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine have proved more useful against resistant flies than any other treatment tried in the past 3 years. Get further data by writing to the Editor of *USDA* for No. 2672.

"Slow as molasses"

Cold weather may slow up the flow of molasses naturally, but the molasses industry has found itself slowed down a lot lately anyhow. Available supplies exceed the presently developed capacities for its profitable use. Hence a conference was held by the Sugar Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration at Washington in November 1952. Readers wanting to get details of this meeting and the proposals made thereat may write to the Sugar Branch, PMA for No. 17–M of the Sugar Reports.

Home demonstration report

Madge J. Reese of the Federal Extension Service staff has prepared a general report of organized home demonstration work in the States. As a rule readers will be able to see copies at their State Colleges and Experiment Stations where copies have been sent to all the Extension offices, 4–H club offices, and libraries. *USDA* has none to distribute.

Grad school folders

Folders giving the class schedules for the spring semester of the USDA Graduate School are ready for you upon application to the business office of the School, telephone extension 6337. You can register from January 24 through January 31, Mondays through Fridays 9:00 a. m. to 6:15 p. m. and on Saturadys between 9:00 a. m. and 4:00 p. m. The term begins on February 2 and ends on May 15, 1953.

Honors to USDA author

Mrs. Helen A deHuarte has been made an honorary member of the International Mark Twain Society in recognition of her book of poems, "Michaelmas Spring," published by Dorrance & Co., Philadelphia. She is a translator in the Rubber Plant Investigations Division, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

Guide to tree books

William A. Dayton of the Forest Service is author of a bibliography of 381 titles of tree books and publications of the twentieth century which include those issued in Alaska and all regions of the United States. It should prove helpful to teachers, librarians, students, and naturalists. As copies are scarce, write to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., and send 15 cents per copy.

Foreign shop talk soon

Persons interested in foreign agricultural programs may mark the dates of February 2-5 on which the conclave of Government and college authorities in this field will be held at the Department here. Those helping to share American Agricultural know-how with visitors from abroad or who undertake foreign assignments will take a major role in this important annual discussion. Programs will be distributed by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Feeding livestock

Farmers' Bulletin No. 2052, "Better Feeding of Livestock," is a new revised edition written by workers in the Bureau of Dairy Industry and the Bureau of Animal Industry. Send to Inquiries and Distribution Service, Office of Information.

RIF system simplified

The U. S. Civil Service Commission has announced a new procedure designed to simplify reduction-in-force procedures by reducing from 23 to 6 the number of categories heretofore used. They were published in the Federal Register on December 25 as a revision of chapter 1, title 5, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Brief and choice

Home events

The National Conference for Home Furnishings Specialists will convene in Chicago, April 26 through May 2, 1953. The services of Dorothy Iwig, home furnishing specialist of Illinois, have been secured by the Federal Extension Office on a half-time basis to arrange details of the event. The programs are out for the National Workshop for Home Demonstration Leaders, at Oklahoma A&M College, January 20–30, 1953.

Shahan to disease research

Dr. Maurice S. Shahan, Bureau of Animal Industry, will direct the new Plum Island Animal Disease Research Institute to conduct foot-and-mouth disease and other dangerous livestock diseases. A native of Nebraska, Dr. Shahan has administered programs in foreign countries where institutions are cooperating with the Department, and is a recognized world authority on foot-and-mouth disease.

The EPQ'er club

Fully 85 percent of the employees in the Washington area of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine belong to the "EPQ'er club." It is affiliated with the USDA Welfare and Recreation Association. The present officers are Avery S. Hoyt, honorary president; Harry H. Stage, active president; W. H. Wheeler, vice president; Mrs. M. L. Sykes, secretary; and L. B. Reed, treasurer.

Cheap at the price

According to C. H. Pals, Meat Inspection Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, the entire annual financial cost of Federal meat inspection of live animals and processed meat products figures to only 9 cents per capita for the U. S. population.

Walsh in new work

Robert M. Walsh, for the last 5 years assistant and deputy director of the Fats and Oils Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration, began his new duties in December as deputy assistant administrator of marketing work conducted under the Agricultural Marketing Act (RMA—Title II). He began his USDA career as an economist in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in 1934.

Parsell succeeds Halligan

John E. Parsell was named to succeed James E. Halligan as assistant administrator of the Farmers Home Administration in the national office, Washington, D. C. Mr. Halligan's retirement became effective December 20 after more than 20 years of Federal service in the farm credit field. Mr. Parsell, a veteran of both world wars, has been with the Government since 1920 and has been connected with the FHA and its predecessors since 1936. He became chief of the agency's finance division in 1946. Last year he received a superior service award for outstanding work in fiscal affairs. Robert Schottler, who had been assistant chief of the finance division, now becomes chief. Mr. Halligan plans to live in the family home at Miami Shores, Fla. Prior to coming into the Department in 1932 he had been with a company manufacturing automobiles in Syracuse, N. Y.

Demonstration jubilee

General overhead land-grant colleges and Extension Service and Department committee members are planning for the 50th anniversary next February of the establishment of the first agricultural demonstration at the Porter farm near Terrell, Kaufman County, Tex., supervised by Dr. Seaman A. Knapp. The land–grant colleges are represented on the committee by Miss Helen Prout, Colorado; Miss Louise Rosenfeld, Iowa; C. M. Ferguson, Ohio; and G. G. Gibson, Texas (chairman). For the Department the members are W. A. Minor of the Secretary's Office, L. I. Jones, Extension Service; and Director of Extension M. L. Wilson (chairman). For the Department the members are W. A. Minor of the Secretary's Office, L. I. Jones, Extension Service; and Director of Extension M. L. Wilson (chairman). Details of bibliography, history, and background data are being handled by Charles A. Sheffield, Althea Thacker, and Lucinda Crile of the Extension Service; while mass information contacts will be maintained in the Department by Lester A. Schlup, George Pace, Clara Ackerman, Joe Tonkin, Josephine Hemphill, and E. R. McIntyre.

Pittard retires

C. W. Pittard, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, retired on November 30 after completing more than 22 years with the Department. His first assignment was with the phony peach disease in Georgia in 1930 and continued with that work and peach mosiac eradication and citrus canker control. For the past 9 years he has been working in the white-fringed beetle campaign at Gulfport. Miss. He now lives at Homerville, Ga.

New officers named

The board of directors at the Springfield (Mass.) Bank for Cooperatives announce the election of J. Roberts Doe as executive vice president as of January 2, 1953. S. E. Ronk becomes treasurer on that date. They accepted the resignation of G. W. Lamb, former executive vice president, who has joined a commercial company in New York City.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR JANUARY 28, 1953

Our New Secretary

EZRA TAFT BENSON has taken the oath of office as the fifteenth Secretary of Agriculture. Secretary Benson is a nationally known farm leader and a member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, Church of the Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah. He was born at Whitney, Idaho, August 4, 1899, the son of George Taft and Sara (Dunkley) Benson.

He was a student at the Oneida State Academy, Preston, Idaho. His later educational career is as follows: The Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah, 1918–21; B. S. from Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, 1926; M. S. in agricultural economics, Iowa State College, 1927; graduate study, University of California, 1937–38.

Secretary Benson operated a farm in southern Idaho, 1923–29; married Flora Smith Amussen, September 10, 1926; and has six children—Reed, Mark, Barbara, Beverly, Bonnie, and Flora Beth. In 1921–23 he served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints in the British Isles and Europe. In 1929–30 he worked as a county agent for the University of Idaho Agricultural Extension Service at Preston, Idaho. From 1930 to 1938 Secretary Benson was extension economist and marketing specialist, in charge of economics and marketing work for the State of Idaho.

In the period of 1939–41 he served as executive secretary of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives at Washington, D. C. Since 1943 Secretary Benson has been a member of the executive committee and was chairman of the board of trustees, American Institute of Cooperation at the time of his nomination (now resigned). He has been awarded scholarship, Gamma Sigma Delta, honorary society of agriculture, Iowa State College, and a fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley, Calif.

Secretary Ezra Taft Benson

He was a member and later the president of the Boise Stake of the Church of Latter Day Saints, Boise, Idaho, and during his stay in Washington, D. C. he was president of the Washington Stake. In 1946 he was named president of European Missions for the Church. He serves on two national Boy Scout committees, is now on the executive committee of the National Boy Scouts of America. He has always been deeply concerned with 4–H clubs and all youth welfare organizations. He belongs to the American Marketing Association, the Farm Economics Association, the Rotary Club, and Delta Nu fraternity. He has been a frequent contributor to agriculture, cooperative, and religious publications. He received the honorary recognition award from the College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, in February 1952.

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Grad school expands

BOSTON UNIVERSITY this year concluded an agreement with the USDA Graduate School for the cooperative establishment of educational programs for Federal employees in the Boston Metropolitan area. These programs are under the direction of the Institute of Public Service and are offered in the evening at the new university location on Commonwealth Avenue.

The Federal Personnel Council of Boston established a committee to aid in the cooperative efforts of Boston University and the Graduate School. After a survey of the training needs of Federal establishments in New England, it was decided that there was sufficient interest to justify offering three courses during the second semester 1952–53, these to be: (1) Position Classification in the Federal Service, (2) Techniques for Effective Supervision of Personnel, and (3) Federal Accounting Procedures; each course to consist of seven meetings, of one hour and a half, extended over a period of seven weeks.

The objectives of these courses is to provide training for Federal employees of sufficiently high quality to be acceptable by Federal Administrative officers. Thus Boston University's Institute of Public Service is to be a regional training center for the Graduate School. However, it was thought best to make the courses available not only to Federal employees, but to State and local government employees and interested private business personnel as well. In order to satisfy training demands for all groups, an Advisory Council was established consisting of executives active in Federal, State and local governments, certain students of public administration and scholars in the field.

Instruction will begin the week of February 9; all classes will be conducted from 6:30 to 8 p. m. at 725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston. A fee of $10, collectible at the first class, will be charged for each course of seven meetings. Inquiries should be addressed to Boston University, Institute of Public Service, 236 Bay State Road, Boston 15, Mass.

Mahurin with OPEDA

The new executive officer of the Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture is L. T. Mahurin. Formerly with the Forest Service here and in the Rocky Mountain and Northeastern Regions, Mr. Mahurin was with the Office of Budget and Finance when he retired in December 1950. Mr. Mahurin succeeds Dr. F. V. Rand. B. Ralph Stauber, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is president of OPEDA.

Tropical editing

ENGLISH TECHNICAL editor is the title now of T. Swann Harding, former *USDA* editor, who works with the Spanish editor, E. Molinary-Salés for the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, P. R. But they work 1,500 land miles apart. Harding carries on his editorial activities mostly at his home, 4 Cookman, Rehoboth Beach, Del., with such travel as he needs to visit the USDA and the printers in Baltimore and in Greenville, S. C., who issue the Station's Journal of Agriculture and its scientific bulletins and technical papers. The quarterly Journal and most of the latter categories are in English.

Sr. Molinary-Salés is himself a research agronomist of considerable note and is familiar with all aspects of Puerto Rican agriculture as well as of the English language. Director Arturo Roque of the Station, is a native of Ponce, and a graduate of the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in Mayaguez, specializing in plant genetics and pathology, and with a degree at Cornell. He appreciates the urgent need for translating the findings of his large staff in this Tropic Zone research station to fit the requirements of the average Puerto Rican farmer. The Station has recently become an important port of call for Point IV visitors from all over the world.

Puerto Rico is a land of rapidly increasing population, and has its own peculiar problems in plant and animal production to solve. Most published agricultural research was done in the Temperate Zone and the findings simply do not fit tropical conditions. All plants and animals must be retested in this Island which, though only 100 by 35 miles in extent, has more than 225 distinct soil types, a rainfall varying from 40 or under to over 200 inches annually, elevations ranging from sea level to 4,400 feet, and several definite climatic zones.

The Station's scientists are well trained and have mostly done graduate work, or perhaps taken their undergraduate degrees here in the United States. A very few of them are Americans or "Continentals," as they are called there. The Station maintains four combined substations and seed farms and plans to establish three others. These are focal points for the dissemination of the latest scientific information to farmers, and they also sell them high-germinating, pure-line seed at cost.

During the term of Director Roque the Station staff has increased from around 30 to over 100 and its expenditures from approximately a quarter of a million to nearly $1,200,000 a year. Its output of research in print is prolific and of high quality. The English-language manuscripts coming from Island authors are well-organized, logical, and unusually well-written. Too much praise can scarcely be given the Station's women clerk-typists for their excellent use of English; they must be truly bilingual, taking dictation in English or Spanish as needed, and at salaries we would regard as surprisingly low.

Suicide for suckers

MUCH PROGRESS has been made in the practical application of certain systemic insecticide compounds, through current research in all States and many foreign countries. These are poisonous compounds fed into plants which kill sucking insects which injure them. According to workers in our Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, there are probably at least two dozen compounds known to have systemic insecticidal properties, but only two of them have reached a stage of practical use here. One of them is schradan, often called "OMPA," while the other one is the active ingredient of "Systox." Aphids, or plant lice, and spider mites—and to some extent, mealeybugs—are the groups of sucking insects against which systemic insecticides thus far have been most successful.

The Bureau calls attention to the practical requirements which must be considered in a systemic insecticide compound. It must not injure plants at concentrations high enough to kill insects. It must be something that a plant can absorb and transport through its sap system. It must be fairly lasting and not break down quickly. Finally, it must decompose into harmless compounds or be evaporated so that no poisonous residues will stay on the surface of the fruit or plant for human or animal consumption.

Three main ways to apply such systemic insect poisons are noted. Soil applications can be made prior to planting by mixing the material with the soil or seed-bed, or by using side applications to growing plants. This usually takes more insecticide, but its effect lasts longer, they believe. Spraying the material on plants has several advantages, as less of the insecticide is needed, the plants take it up faster, and one may choose the best time for applying it direct during the season. Its drawback is the possibility of harming beneficial insects. Seed treatment is a new approach, the best method being to apply it with activated carbon which will absorb the systemic insecticide without becoming gummy—but a very exact measurement of the quantity used is essential lest low seed germination or stunted seedlings result.

Hazards incidental to the application of systemic poisons against insects, which also often arise under present methods of insecticide application, may be expected to continue and be a deciding factor in adopting and perfecting their future use. How long will the toxic hazard remain after the application of systemic compounds? The Bureau specialists emphasize that all such compounds presently in use are poisonous and must be handled with care. Much more research is needed to test each and every such new compound before it can be safely recommended for general use.

Dan Currie moves

Daniel A. Currie, who has been with our Office of Personnel for several years, has transferred to the Commodity Exchange Authority as an executive officer.

Rubber workers change

Dr. R. D. Rands has retired as head of the Division of Rubber Investigations in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. He is succeeded by Dr. Marion W. Parker. Dr. Rands' retirement closes 32 years of noteworthy service in the Bureau. He will live in Lake Wales, Fla., on his citrus farm. Dr. Parker joined the Division in March 1952 to direct work on hevea.

Mindrum directs 4–H agency

Norman C. Mindrum, recently assistant 4–H club leader in Minnesota, is the new executive director of the National 4–H Club Foundation Inc. He succeeds Ed W. Aiton, who resigned to resume youth work with the Cooperative Extension Service. Mr. Mindrum served as county agent in Winona County, Minn., and as a vocational agriculture teacher, and spent 2 years in the U. S. Navy.

"Mass migrations"

Some 160 employees at 50 locations were transferred late in November to the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering from the Soil Conservation Service. At the same time, 180 people were moved with the division of soil survey over to the Soil Conservation Service. This change was based on Secretary's memorandum No. 1318 to establish responsibilities more clearly, prevent duplication, and facilitate joint programs.

Pechanec range chief

Joseph F. Pechanec, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, and a worker in the Forest Service since 1933, is the new head of the Division of Forest Research. He replaces W. Ridgely Chapline, who retired to take a position with Food and Agriculture Organization. Mr. Pechanec has a long and serviceable career to his credit, among which was service with the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station at Dubois, Idaho. His successor as head of the range research work in Washington and Oregon is David F. Costello of the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station at Ft. Collins, Colo.

Co-op relations stated

TWO STATEMENTS regarding the policies and attitudes governing the relations between farm cooperative associations and the USDA were issued to the public in 1952. One was Secretary's Memorandum No. 1307 of March 24, 1952; and the other was a basic statement on the relations between the Extension Service and farmers' cooperatives made to the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Cooperatives by a designated subcommittee in December 1952.

Memo No. 1307 simply reaffirmed and accepted the established policy prevailing for many years in respect to USDA and farm cooperatives. It repeated the intention to: (1) Encourage sound development and effective use of cooperatives; (2) Provide research, educational, and advisory services to rural people about cooperatives; (3) Give due consideration to cooperatives in performance of the Department's functions; (4) Give full agency support to whatever specific functions such agency is authorized to carry out; (5) Coordinate the various activities of USDA agencies with cooperatives to make them effective; and (6) Direct the USDA efforts toward strengthening cooperatives as member-controlled self-help organizations that operate in the public interest.

In the latest statement, Extension Service accepted the responsibility for providing information about cooperatives directed toward at least three ends—establishment of new associations where needed; the improvement in operation and organization of associations already set up; and a better understanding of cooperatives by farmer members and nonmembers, as well as the public.

It also recognized that the responsibility for giving counsel and guidance in any particular situation rests with other agencies besides the Extension Service, both inside USDA and those of State and farm organization nature. It endorsed in-service training of county Extension workers and others along cooperative lines, and urged the interstate exchange of experiences and teaching aids. In its conclusion, the subcommittee report said that many cooperative leaders and those serving them need to know more about the Extension system and the contribution it can make to education in the cooperative field. It pointed out that new programs of joint activities in keeping with changing needs can make Extension-Cooperative relations even better in the future.

Said on the side

AFTER SANTA'S jingle bells died away off in the hills, the folks up in our old valley began to look eagerly for the cheerful, red-faced rural carrier with his welcome stacks of seed and nursery catalogs. There's nothing in the world to perk you up more in a dreary winter season than to get plenty of fresh, high colored horticultural catalogs with directions on ordering and planting. I've never seen a country boy yet—even when he gets shoved by fate into some metropolis—who didn't hanker for those catalogs and what they stood for. You didn't have to believe all the wonderful promises in them any more than you had to believe in fairies or the embroidered mottoes like "truth crushed to earth will rise again." They just sort of represented life and what everyday folks wanted to do and liked to hope might happen if you kept your shirt on and worked hard. It just took a grain of faith, which the Bible says stands for "the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen." You never got disgusted and slammed these catalogs in the stove because the bounty berries and marvel melons didn't quite come up to what was expected of them. All you did was vow to try it again and not let any neighbor get a chance to brag about some new plant you'd somehow overlooked in the latest brochure. You knew that testing them out was the only good way to make sure you would not be the "last to lay the old aside." In general that's the way progress came to our old valley and stayed there. A country boy just can't keep on wasting time and hopes with the old varieties and methods. He's willing to trade a little disappointment now for a possible ten-strike later on. So that's why the seed catalogs become real harbingers of spring, to bring us sweet solace amid the snows. They make you smell the upturned loam and see the friendly robin following your busy spade in search of the same things you are looking for—abundance, happiness, something to work for, and peace in our time.

Motion picture symposium

Dedicated to improved motion picture work by Department workers and State college associates, and not open to the general public, a symposium is being held January 26–28 by the Motion Pictures Service of the Office of Information. It will include script writing and planning, basic camera work and lighting effects, editing film, and screening, projection and development features—with a special period for television techniques. This will be similar to the "publications workshop" that proved popular in November.

Brief and choice

"Barnstormers"

During the past year approximately 5,300 people visited the dairy station at Beltsville; they came singly and in groups. About 4,000 were from 44 States, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico; and 1,300 were from 57 foreign countries.

Agronomy fellows-elect

Noted among the annual choices of fellows–elect by the American Society of Agronomy are three well known scientists at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. They are Burton B. Bayles, James E. McMurtrey, and Roy W. Simonson. Total registration at the Society's meeting in 1952 was a record 1,193. Dallas, Texas, will get the 1953 meeting.

Object to quota drives

The Employee Council of the Production and Marketing Administration in December 1952 asked that no more quota drives among workers be made for charity. They requested all USDA-sponsored organizations such as Red Cross, Community Chest and the like, to send out self-addressed envelopes so employees may mail the gifts they wish to make.

"Limit your citations"

S. B. Herrell of the Office of Personnel has reminded agency heads that nominations of employees for the Honor Awards bestowed in May 1953 should be sent to the Office of Personnel by February 15, 1953. Along with the nominations made for distinguished and superior awards, lists of individuals eligible to receive 40- and 50-year length-of-service awards should be included.

Federal employee hints

According to Charles F. Parker, management analyst, Bureau of the Budget, more than 600,000 suggestions from Federal employees have been received in the past 6 years, for which $3,750,000 have been paid out in awards. But these suggestions, it is explained, resulted in savings of $125,000,000 for the Government.

Alabama seed lab

Grain Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration has set up a new Federal seed laboratory at Montgomery, Ala. Its address is Room 212, Old Post Office Building, 152 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery 4, Ala. The staff comprises L. N. Allen, H. B. Byrd, Mrs. Janetta Leveque, and Elizabeth Harris.

Office consolidations

County locations of Production and Marketing Administration, Soil Conservation Service, and Farmers Home Administration as of November 1952 were consolidated in 1,840 counties, or 61 percent of the 3,006 counties with USDA offices.

Jesse B. Hearin retires

Jesse B. Hearin has retired as president of the Production Credit Corporation of New Orleans. He became president when the corporation was formed to supervise and help capitalize the PCAs in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He continually emphasized that the function of PCAs was designed to serve both large and small farmers. The units in this district have made good progress. On December 31, 1952, half of the PCAs in the district were completely member-owned and most of the others anticipate reaching that goal in 1953. Mr. Hearin was interested in getting information to farmers on soil conservation, pasture improvement, increased livestock growing, and better living conditions in the South.

Anniversary

The U. S. civil service is 70 years old. President Chester A. Arthur signed the original Civil Service Act on January 16, 1883. On all outgoing mail matter from the United States Civil Service Commission appears the slogan: "The Merit System—a Good Investment in Good Government."

Corn grows up

A six-point program aimed at better yields of corn per acre is the subject of one of the latest film productions from the Department's motion picture studio. Russ Anderson, Dick Fryer, Martin Lobdell, and Dan Milner from the Motion Pictures Service visited farms in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Ohio, and North and South Carolina in shooting the picture. Film distribution should be possible prior to next spring's planting time.

"Me a bureaucrat?"

That's one of the punchlines in the extra short fill-in motion-picture film produced by the U. S. Civil Service Commission, using the Federal Meat Inspection Service as an example of creditable public service. It is being widely distributed in the regular recruitment program and to help dispel misleading beliefs about the quality of personnel working for the Government.

"Use their hats for offices"

Rural Electrification Administration, which assembles its field staff once a year for a general pow-wow, now sponsors interim meetings also, on a somewhat smaller scale. Since REA has no field or regional offices, its field staff work out of their homes and use their hats for offices. They depend upon correspondence to keep them abreast of policy changes. But at the interim conferences the personnel afield meet headquarters officials and get the latest facts. One strong feature of all meetings is a "gripe session" at which no holds are barred.

Harvard fellowships

A memorandum has been distributed to Department agency heads relative to the Lucius N. Littauer Fellowships at Harvard University for men who have had some experience in public service and with academic ability and personal promise. These fellowships in the social sciences carry stipends up to $2,100, with awards adjusted to the needs of individual students. Full information and application blanks may be had by writing to 118 Littauer Center, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Mass. The deadline for filing applications is March 15, 1953.

Federal "best seller?"

In making public results of a survey made for the Joint Congressional Economic Committee by the National Planning Association in regard to existing old-age pension systems, Senator O'Mahoney, Wyoming, chairman, predicted the bulletin will be a "best seller" by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office. Readers may get copies there at 30 cents each.

Memorial lectures

A major event for 1953 at the USDA Graduate School is the lecture series for the Jump-McKillop Memorial that began early in January. The supervising committee has invited distinguished speakers to present different aspects of the subject, "Executive-Legislative Relations." This new lecture series is in honor of William A. Jump and Thomas McKillop who were active in the development of the Graduate School. Speakers listed through February include Harold S. Persons, Forest Service; Judge Marvin Jones, United States Court of Appeals, Ernest Griffith, director legislative reference service, Library of Congress, and Hon. Clifford Hope, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Goes to grassroots

The final report on the 1951 Agricultural Conservation Program assistance reveals grasslands improvement far ahead of all other farm practices for which payments were made. Over 77 percent of the money went to get more grass culture and its soil conserving features.

Shooting and seeding

A new wrinkle in Virginia's forest conservation program has been cited in a letter to *USDA* by William Clave, blister rust control project leader in Greenfield, Mass. "Everyone who applies for a hunter's license will receive a packet of 10 pine tree seeds for planting in the woods. White pine will be planted by hunters in mountain zones, short leaf pine by those who hunt in the Piedmont area, and loblolly pine by sportsmen in the Tidewater."

Invisible insecticide

The insecticide "malathon" has proved effective in the control of several insects and mites. What's more, it disappears promptly after the job is done. Entomologists of USDA report that deposits of the chemical are lost so quickly from fruits and vegetables that it appears to be one of the safest mediums to use. Residues from the spraying of malathon on all crops, except peaches, were down to a fraction of one part per million or less within 2 weeks.

Pet food report

In 1947 when the Animal Foods Inspection Division was set up in the Bureau of Animal Industry to inspect, certify and regulate proper labeling of canned animal foods, a total of 93 million pounds were handled. In the 1952 fiscal year inspection was conducted in 24 plants in 19 cities for a total of 468.6 million pounds, which was an increase of about 7 million pounds over the year previous. Moreover, 118 labels and designs were approved for use at inspected plants. Only 26 out of 129 samples of foods and ingredients intended for use in animal foods were rejected last year by the Bureau. Dr. D. W. Glasscock is the supervisor of this work and clerical work is by Wilma E. Oppelt.

Food sales lesson

Better selling methods, careful handling, and attractive arrangement of perishable foods are points of value both to producers and consumers which are being emphasized in courses of training sponsored by the Fruit and Vegetable Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration. These courses, attended by employees of wholesale and retail produce merchants, have been held in 39 states, the District of Columbia, and Hawaii and included 60 service wholesalers and 27,000 retailers. The training is conducted by qualified instructors of the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association under an RMA contract with the Fruit and Vegetable Branch.

Fewer renewals

Minnesota Experiment Station Bulletin 410, "Loans of Production Credit Associations to Minnesota Farmers," points out a marked difference in the average period of time that loans are outstanding—those of PCA ran for about 10.6 months, and commercial bank loans for 3.3 months. It shows that two-thirds of the bank loans were renewals, whereas only about one-tenth of the total advanced by the PCAs involved a renewal. The study seems to indicate, as Farm Credit Administration points out, that even though some commercial banks have followed the lead of the cooperatives, production credit associations still provide loans better suited to the farm business than can often be obtained elsewhere.

South pulpwood leader

In 1951 the South produced 56 percent of all the pulpwood cut in the Nation. Georgia was the largest producer, its 2.3 million cords representing 9 percent of the United States output, says Forest Service.

They sure "know beans"

The bean inspection manual issued by E. J. Murphy and associates of the Grain Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, shows clearly that trained and certified graders must know beans whether the bag is open or spilled. One hardly knew there were so many varieties and classes. To give a few they list therein: medium white, marrow, flat small white, white kidney, light red, dark red, and Western kidney, yelloweye, small red, pink, Bayo, Lima, Mung, blackeye, cranberry, Pinto, Great Northern, and pea beans.

Counting cones

Loblolly pines will produce more cones this year than usual in the coastal plains of Virginia and North Carolina, according to a forecast of the seed crop made in the last summer by the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station and associates at Asheville, N. C. They get their data by counting the conelets that will make next year's crop, and then compare this with the number of large cones that are maturing this fall. It was also found that 26 percent of the 1952 cones were attacked by insects.

Market research

Summary of Agricultural Marketing Act (title II) marketing research, service, and educational work and allotments for fiscal year 1952: Marketing costs, margins, and efficiency, $809,980; improvement and evaluation of product quality, $1,168,576; improvements in market organization and facilities, $1,756,820; collection, analysis, and dissemination of market data, $1,058,924; over-all administration, $167,700; total, $4,962,000.

Casein splitting

Some 70 million pounds of the milk protein called "casein" are used in this country every year. Our Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry says that casein is really composed of three caseins—alpha-, beta-, and gamma-casein. They have devised practical ways to separate each of these component caseins and find them very much different in composition and properties. Strange enough, these three separate forms of casein always occur in milk in the ratio of 16: 4: 1.

Farm account record

E. F. Callahan, Extension Service, informs us that ES–29, "Farm Income and Expense Record," is off the press. It was developed and designed to meet the need of farmers who wish to keep records of their income and expenses on a cash basis for income tax reporting purposes. There are blank headings and cut-off pages that really provide a continuing record of capital assets to reduce the work of transferring records into a new book each year. *USDA* has no copies to send you.

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR FEBRUARY 11, 1953

Realignment

EZRA TAFT BENSON, Secretary of Agriculture, announced on January 22 that he is regrouping the Department's services into four divisions for administrative purposes. Another division, that of the Solicitor's Office, will remain as presently constituted.

"This action," stated Secretary Benson, "will make possible a closer coordination of related activities. All the regrouped agencies retain their present structure with the exception of the Agricultural Conservation Program. This will be transferred from the Production and Marketing Administration and placed with the Research, Extension and Land-Use Group.

"What we intend is a gradual streamlining of the Department's services in the interest of economy and greater efficiency. The action is taken after weeks of study and conferences with congressional leaders, the members of the President's Committee on Reorganization, our own Interim Agricultural Advisory Committee, and members of the Hoover Commission."

The four groups, the agencies in each, and the officials who will head them are:

Commodity Marketing and Adjustment Group: John H. Davis, President, CCC—Commodity Credit Corporation, Commodity Exchange Authority, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and Production and Marketing Administration (except Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch).

Agricultural Credit Group: Romeo E. Short, Assistant to the Secretary—Farm Credit Administration, Farmers Home Administration, and Rural Electrification Administration.

Research, Extension, and Land-Use Group: J. Earl Coke, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture—Agricultural Research Administration, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Extension Service, Forest Service, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, Soil Conservation Service, and Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch (transferred from PMA). For an interim period the ACP Branch will use facilities and field service of PMA in carrying out the Agricultural Conservation Program. The Research, Extension and Land-Use Group will also be responsible for flood prevention and land and water utilization programs.

Departmental Administration Group: Richard D. Aplin, Assistant to the Secretary—Hearing Examiners, Library, Office of Budget and Finance, Office of Information, Office of Personnel, and Office of Plant and Operations.

The four group heads, along with Secretary Benson; True D. Morse, Under Secretary; Karl D. Loos, Solicitor; the executive and administrative assistants and such consultants as are designated, will form a policy forming and planning group that will meet weekly to chart the course of the new agricultural administration, according to Mr. Benson.

Under Secretary True D. Morse

New Under Secretary

TRUE D. MORSE, Under Secretary of Agriculture, was president of the Doane Agricultural Service, Inc., St. Louis, Mo., from 1943 to 1952 and was recently elected chairman of the board of that organization. He has also been editor of the Doane Agricultural Digest since 1938, a twice-monthly service which is used as a farm management and business guide in all States and in several foreign countries. Under the Doane Agricultural Service, farms are managed, appraisals are made, and special services are rendered regularly in about 25 States.

Mr. Morse was born on a farm at Carthage, Mo. He graduated in agriculture from the University of Missouri where he was a member of such honorary fraternities as Alpha Zeta, Gamma Sigma Delta, Alpha Phi Zeta, and the social professional fraternity of Alpha Gamma Rho. Prior to 1925, Mr. Morse was an economist with the University of Missouri, after farming for about 5 years. He served as president of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers in 1941 and is one of the originators of the American Rural Appraisal System. He is a member of the Missouri bar and is well known as a lecturer and author.

Other positions Mr. Morse has held or now holds are: Vice President of the American Farm Economics Association; Director of the Mutual Savings Life Insurance Company; Director of the Foundation for American Agriculture; Trustee and Executive Secretary of the Agricultural Institute; Trustee and Secretary of the National Council for Community Improvement; and a faculty member of the School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin.

Mr. Morse is a member of the Christian Church and has served as president of his church in St. Louis. He is also a trustee of the non-denominational Bible College of Columbia, Mo., which operates in cooperation with the University of Missouri. Mr. Morse married the former Mary Louise Hopkins of Sedalia, Mo., and they have one son, a second lieutenant in the Army, who is stationed at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Tex.

United entomologists

A stronger, more closely knit, and serviceable unit that will represent all professional entomologists in all fields of endeavor is the new Entomological Society of America that started officially January 1, 1953. It is a merger of the two foremost entomological groups in the country, the American Association of Economic Entomologists and the Entomological Society of America. A permanent staff will manage the new society's affairs.

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Secretary's greeting

IN HIS first official communication to Department heads and service employees, Secretary Benson stated his position as follows:

"It is a great, although unexpected, honor to have been asked by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to serve as Secretary of Agriculture. I approach the task humbly, realizing the grave and far-reaching responsibilities I have assumed. I assure you I am fully aware of the important contribution the employees of this great Department have made to its accomplishments, and to the service it has rendered to agriculture and to the entire Nation. It is a pleasure to be associated with the many hard-working, conscientious employees in the Department who over many years have built up a tradition for effective public service. I am looking forward to meeting all of you, and hope that arrangements to do so can be made soon.

"We can all be proud of the men who have been asked to assume positions of leadership on the Department's staff. They are men of competence, with years of successful experience. Most of them are serving at great financial sacrifice because they have a deep sense of public duty and a desire to be of service to agriculture.

"As public servants, we must recognize the duty and responsibility we have to serve the public efficiently and well. The people of this country have a right to expect that everyone of us will give a full day's work for a day's pay. They have a right to expect that we will find more effective and economical ways of doing our job. In these times of unprecedented public debt and continued high Federal expenditures, the public rightfully expects us to put forth even greater effort to effect savings in Government operations and to reduce public expenses. Fulfillment of this responsibility will require the undivided loyalty and support of every agency head and employee in the Department. We must work as a team if we are to meet the problems that lie ahead and render the greatest possible service to the farmers of America, the entire agricultural industry, and to this great and good country we love so much.

"A very careful study of the organization and activities of the Department indicates the need for better and more effective coordination of the various functions and activities. With this in mind, and as an initial step toward improved coordination in departmental direction and management, agencies and functions of the Department shall be grouped as indicated, effective immediately."

Auchter tribute

In the December 26, 1952, issue of "Science" magazine of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, appears a tribute to the memory of Eugene Curtis Auchter, by Frederick D. Ritchey, Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Auchter's leadership in establishing the Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Md., is featured. He headed the Agricultural Research Administration from 1942 through 1945.

Mothproofing woolen

With USDA's newly developed compound called EQ–53 one can mothproof blankets, sweaters and other washable woolens by pouring a few spoonfuls of the solution into the washing machine or in a tub or wash basin. The product is expected to be available in commercial amounts late in the coming spring. It is a mixture of DDT and certain chemical carriers, developed and tested by Hamilton Laudani and associates at the Savannah, Ga., laboratory of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

New Assistant Secretary

J. EARL COKE, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, has been Director of the Agricultural Extension Service in California since 1949, and for approximately 30 years his agricultural career has been divided between public service and private industry. Before serving as Director of Extension in California, he was vice president of the Spreckels Sugar Company in charge of operations.

As a State Extension Director, Mr. Coke stressed the importance of bringing agricultural services closer to the farmer. In California, where 200 or more different crops are grown, this was done by developing agricultural specialists to serve the greatly varied needs of farmers in that State. Special attention was given to 4–H Club work under Mr. Coke's directorship, membership in these clubs in the State having risen from 16,000 in 1949 to the present figure of 22,000. Mr. Coke also has been active in developing certified seed programs in California.

The new Assistant Secretary is a native of California. He was born May 28, 1900, on a dairy farm near Downey. He attended high school at Ontario, Calif., and was graduated in agriculture from the University of California in 1923, where he specialized in agronomy. His agricultural career began as an assistant county agent in San Luis Obispo County. He later became an extension specialist in agronomy at the University of California. He is a member of the agricultural committee of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

In 1922 Mr. Coke was married to Madeline Fulton, with whom he had attended high school in Ontario. They have two married sons, James E. Coke, Jr., who is a student in architecture at the University of California. The other, Thomas R. Coke, is a student at State College, San Jose, Calif.

J. Earl Coke

J. H. Davis

Howard Gordon

Romeo Short

List Other Leaders

ANNOUNCEMENT of the following top positions in the Department to serve with Secretary Benson have been made:

ROMEO E. SHORT, a farmer and farm organization leader and former vice president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, from Brinkley, Ark., to be Assistant to the Secretary, in charge of the Agricultural Credit Group.

JOHN H. DAVIS, Boston, Mass., former general manager of the National Wool Marketing Cooperative, previously executive secretary of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, and for a time with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, to be president of the Commodity Credit Corporation and Head of the Commodity Marketing and Adjustment Group.

RICHARD D. APLIN, a native of Vermont, and former market administrator of the Federal milk marketing orders for the Greater Boston and three Massachusetts milk marketing areas, to be an Assistant to the Secretary and Head of the Departmental Administration Group.

KARL D. LOOS, a Washington, D. C., attorney and native of Iowa, to be Department Solicitor.

HOWARD D. GORDON, Richmond, Va., a native of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration. Mr. Gordon has been serving as assistant manager for the Southern States Cooperative.

D. K. BROADHEAD, San Marino, Calif., to be Executive Assistant to the Secretary.

DR. DON PAARLBERG, agricultural economist of Purdue University, to be Assistant to the Secretary.

WHITNEY GILLILLAND, lawyer of Glenwood, Iowa, to be Assistant to the Secretary on Relations with State Departments of Agriculture.

JOHN C. DAVIS, farm editor, Cleveland Plain Dealer, to be an Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Secretary.

FREDERICK W. BABBEL, Salt Lake City, Utah, to be an Administrative Assistant to the Secretary.

Additional sketches of the careers of these executives will appear in forthcoming issues.

Extension's anniversary

Do you know that Dr. Seaman Knapp was a native of New York, editor of the Western Stock Journal, and president of Iowa State College before he started farm demonstrations in the South? Would you like background data about early days of extension work, and a good bibliography of extension reading references? All these and more are on tap, either from your nearest State Extension Editor's office or from the Division of Extension Information in the Federal Extension Service here. Considerable bibliographical references will also be found in most State agricultural colleges and experiment station libraries.

Extension Service Head

C. M. FERGUSON, former director of the Ohio Agricultural Extension Service, was named director of the Federal Extension Service in the Department by Secretary Benson. Mr. Ferguson is chairman of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy of the American Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities.

M. L. Wilson, former head of the Federal Extension Service, will continue as counselor, and probably will work with a major foundation in allied fields. At present Mr. Wilson is overseas visiting extension projects in the Far East.

The incoming director of the Extension Service was born on a farm in Ontario, Canada, June 21, 1899 and was graduated from the Ontario Agricultral College at Guelph in 1921, specializing in animal science. From 1922 to 1928 he was at Michigan State College at East Lansing where he was an extension poultry specialist and also taught agriculture. In 1928 he spent the year at Bogota, Colombia, organizing an experiment station for the Colombian government.

Mr. Ferguson's early interest in livestock has continued throughout his career. He was a member of a stock judging team while at college. He began his work with the Extension Service at Ohio State University in 1929 as a poultry specialist and in 1948 this service culminated in his appointment as director of the Agricultural Extension Service for the State.

He took an active part in organizing the Ohio Animal Nutrition Conference, which is held annually at Ohio State University and which has grown to be nationally important. He has been a strong supporter of 4–H Club work and was a local 4–H Club leader of the South Perry Garden and Livestock 4–H Club in Ohio for six years. As Director of Extension in Ohio he has emphasized the need for strengthening Extension work and developed a State-wide Extension Advisory Committee which has lay representation from each of the State's 88 counties.

For better trees

FOREST TREES like pasture lands, have too often been left to themselves without the care and breeding skill that has done so much to improve fruits, vegetables and cereals as cash crops. Today the U. S. Forest Service and its allies and branch stations are vigorously attacking the problem of widespread improvement of tree species and varities through applied genetics in all its forms.

A standing committee, for instance, now links State, Federal, industrial, and educational forestry groups with the objective of fostering and encouraging practical ways to improve the native trees of the South. It is called The Committee on Southern Forest Tree Improvement, with headquarters at the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Asheville, N. C., E. L. Demmon, Director.

They are now starting to tell the "what to do" philosophy of tree improvement research. It is intended for all who care to help in a South–wide advance on the broad front of forest genetics and who seek help and suggestions on proper procedure. They suggest projects in the geographic sources of seed and application of genetics to its collection for planting stock. They will study selection, anatomy, breeding techniques, methods for control of flowering and fruiting, methods of vegetative propagation, and perfection of suitable equipment for pollen collecting and extracting, protecting cones from pests, better facilities for climbing mature trees to collect cones, and finally, for storing and transporting pollen of all important genera.

They have named standing subcommittees as follows: On geographic sources of seed, P. C. Wakeley, chairman; on genetic control, F. M. Cossitt, chairmain; on selection and breeding, Keith W. Dorman, chairman; and on progeny testing, E. G. Weisehuegel, chairman. Several guideline circulars have already been prepared and distributed by the committees and a real forward movement is anticipated.

Phone loans rise

"WE IN Rural Electrification Administration are greatly heartened by the speed-up in the rural telephone program in the past few months," declares Administrator Claude R. Wickard.

"Over 200 telephone organizations in 39 States have become REA borrowers, and their number is increasing every day. We are making headway in processing the many requests coming into REA daily for telephone loans. Greatly increased advances of funds to telephone organizations reflect the extent of construction progress and the installation of modern telephones in greater numbers on the nation's farms.

"Through the recent reorganization, REA was able to put more employees into the program. But the greatest impetus to the program has come not from REA but from the rural people themselves who want and need more and better telephone service. Local initiative is at work again. Thus, the accomplishments to date are a tribute to that initiative.

"Rural telephone officials say that they need specialized REA assistance to help them design and operate their systems more efficiently. Requests coming in from the field substantiate what I have learned first–hand from talking with telephone leaders," Mr. Wickard says.

Recent schedules of REA telephone cut–overs include these locations:

Home Telephone Co., New Haven, W. Va.; Home Telephone Co., Simpson, S. C.; Cap Rock Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Spur, Tex.; Lafourche Telephone Co., Golden Meadow, La.; Poka-Lambro Rural Telephone Cooperative, Tahoka, Tex.; South Plains Rural Telephone Association, Lubbock, Tex.

Florala Telephone Co., Florala, Ala.; Badger Telephone Co., Webster, Wis.; Belmont Telephone Co., Platteville, Wis.; Emery County Farmers Union Telephone Cooperative, Orangeville, Utah; Molino Telephone Co., Molino, Fla.; Ringgold Telephone Co., Ringgold, La.; Eureka Telephone Co., Corydon, Ind.; Hancock Rural Telephone Corp., Greenfield, Ind.; Danielsville & Comer Telephone Co., Comer, Ga.

Equines exit

THIS COULD be the universal term denoting a mighty shift in farm power from horses to electricity, motor fuels and the internal combustion engine. Our friends at Cornell University have sold all their famous Belgian drafters, leaving one old specimen named "Rex" as the last of his coltish clan. But seldom do college students learn the fine points of fetlocks and withers and pasterns or conduct research in multiple hitches and the cure of glanders. Out in our old valley the neigh of the foal is heard no more, the currycomb is buried in the dust of ancient mangers, the harness hangs stiff and mildewed and pulling matches are no longer regular county fair "thrill-binders." Our diligent Crop Reporting Board will soon announce another huge slice cut from the farm horse population—possibly below 3 million head. Last January the report was 4,370,000 horses and colts on our farms, or not quite one nag to a farm. How different indeed from the peak era of bouncing draft horse popularity at the shows and fairs and on the busy farms—back in 1915 when 21,400,000 of them did field and belt and road work for their oats, bran mash and straw bedding. In the not distant future the city zoos and the agricultural museums will proudly boast the last visible specimens of departed Dobbin, guarded from vandalism like the shaggy buffalo, driven to extinction like the wind before the horse-drawn prairie schooners of the pioneers. Men have written odes to the dog, histrionic eulogies to grass, and epic poems to the Texas longhorns—but few there are who pause between push buttons and switches to lift one sublime rural tribute to the stout and patient old farm horse whose powerful muscles really made agricultural America able to meet the challenge of its destiny. We may turn our backs to ancient, outmoded ways—but never to a friend.

Brief and choice

Kraut and boiled dinners

The humble but succulent cabbage is on the plentiful foods list for February. Fruit and Vegetable Branch workers in Production and Marketing Administration are helping the trade dispose of an overabundance.

Soybean milepost

An important milepost in soybean breeding will be reached in 1953 with the release of the Dorman variety. This variety is well adapted to the mid-South and the upper-Mississippi Delta area. Dorman is the tenth in a series of soybean superior variety releases made in the past decade from cooperation between USDA and most of the State experiment stations in the soybean growing States.

USDA motor drivers

After scanning the nonfatal lost time injury record caused by driving motor vehicles by Department workers, the USDA Safety Council last year stated that inasmuch as our employees are operating one of the largest fleets of automotive vehicles in the country, some steps should be taken for safety improvement. The suggested steps include driver testing and training, preventive maintenance and inspection, accident investigation and analysis, and corrective discipline.

Weevily wheat detector

A quick and simple test which reveals the percentage of wheat kernels with weevil holes as an index of insect infestation was devised by Albert C. Apt, at the Manhattan, Kans., laboratory of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. A 100-gram sample of wheat is put into a flat-bottomed pan. A solution of ferric nitrate in water is poured over the wheat. The contents are swirled for 30 seconds. Thereupon the weevily kernels float to the surface and can be counted readily.

The book world scanned

As a guide to the rewards of reading and with inspiring articles by 67 authorities and literary persons about books and reading, a new publication, "The Wonderful World of Books," is off the press. It is edited by Alfred Stefferud of USDA's Yearbook of Agriculture. It appears in a paper-bound edition as a Mentor book of the New American Library series, selling at book stores for 35 cents. A cloth-bound edition is also being published by Houghton-Mifflin. In its inception and development the book was a cooperative venture in which the USDA Extension Service had a part. Louise O. Bercaw, USDA assistant librarian, and Charles E. Kellogg, Soil Survey, are contributors to the book.

Cooperatives gain

Farm Credit Administration has issued its annual statistical summary of the farm cooperatives. In 1951–52, 9,977 associations with a new high of about 7.1 million members did a gross volume of business worth about 8.1 billion dollars. One farmer may be a member of two or more cooperatives with his membership counted more than once. About 22 percent of all purchasing cooperatives do some types of marketing, while over three-fifths of the marketing co-ops also handle some farm supplies. Minnesota with 1,261 associations and 561,450 members tops the Nation in number of cooperatives. The other highest ranking cooperative membership States in order are Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and North Dakota. Farm Credit Administration supervised agencies work closely with many of these larger cooperatives to provide them suitable credit facilities.

Sweeter soils

Lime materials of standard ground limestone equivalent amounting to 10,394,223 tons were distributed to 463,261 farms in the country through the Agricultural Conservation Program in the 1951 season. This roughly represents an estimated 48.5 percent of all liming materials applied and about 62 percent of all farms, in the program.

Library bibliography

The Bibliography of Agriculture continued to be the major tool issued by the USDA Library for reference use. During 1951 it listed 85,790 items which was increased to 95,962 in fiscal 1952. Aside from this, 26 bibliographies and lists were issued in 1952, but the work has been curtailed considerably because of a reduced staff.

PMA awards committee

Employee awards selections in the Production and Marketing Administration are in charge of a committee of 11 employees, with Assistant Administrator Robert W. Herder as chairman. Charles M. Cox of the Office of Program Coordination, is vice-chairman, while Albert A. Heimberg, Office of Personnel Management, is executive secretary.

Luman promoted

William T. Luman is the new chief of the Records Administration Division, Office of Plant and Operations. He succeeds Linwood E. Donaldson, deceased. Mr. Luman has been with the Federal Government since April 1919, joining USDA in 1933 where he served in the original AAA and the Office of Budget and Finance. He also handled much of the financial details for the *USDA* periodical in recent years.

Radioactive tracers

In the sixth year of cooperative research with radioactive materials USDA workers studied the response of 18 crops to phosphatic fertilizers. They will use data from 37 experiments in 19 States made during the past season in measuring the phosphorus fertility of soils.

Seed production larger

According to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the 1952 output of 19 miscellaneous kinds of hay, pasture, lawn, and cover crop seeds for a total of 445 million pounds is 38 percent larger than the production of clean seed in 1951. Prices to growers on 15 out of 20 of the crops in question are below those obtained a year ago.

Farm organizations buy mortgages

Four principal farm organizations now have more than 4 million dollars invested in farm mortgages insured by the Farmers Home Administration. Eight state Farm Bureau organizations—Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee—have invested a total of $2,420,863. The Indiana Farm Bureau leads with $1,531,591. The Michigan Farm Bureau has recently made $50,000 available for the purpose. The other farm organizations participating in the insured farm mortgage program include the Missouri Farmers Association with $1,554,643 invested, the Oregon and Washington Granges with a total of $238,960, and the Colorado and Kansas Farmers Unions with investments totaling $23,945. Under the insured farm mortgage program, banks, insurance companies, or other nongovernment lenders may advance funds for farm loans that are insured, processed, and serviced by the Farmers Home Administration. These loans supplement the agency's direct farm ownership loans made from appropriated funds.

Farewell reception

On January 14 a farewell reception was held for the retiring Secretary Charles F. Brannan, Under Secretary C. F. McCormick, and Assistant Secretary Knox T. Hutchinson in the patio of the Administration Building. A scroll on behalf of all employees was presented to Mr. Brannan by T. Roy Reid, Director of Personnel. It was designed by an engineering draftsman of Forest Service—W. Ellis Groben.

Dressed beef damage

Because dressed beef is suspended on hooks in railway cars and is subjected to much jostling, bruising and fall damages, terrific transportation losses are currently adding to retail costs. To find some ways to prevent or reduce such injury, studies were made under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (RMA, Title II). A report has been prepared on loss and damage to dressed beef during transportation. Interested parties may apply to Office of Information Services, Production and Marketing Administration.

Orange powder beverage

The Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry has produced a new orange powder that mixes up into a fine flavored drink and stores well besides. The Army Quartermaster Corps is testing it, but it is not ready for commercial sale. The fresh orange juice is concentrated at low temperature, drying in a vacuum follows, then a natural orange oil is added to flavor it. The powder dissolves easily, has the natural orange hue, and doesn't settle at the bottom. It also packs all the accredited vitamins in it. More such powders from tomatoes and fruit are well along toward equally promising stages. Details in Release No. 59.

Swoboda promoted

Gerald J. Swoboda has been promoted to Commodity Exchange Supervisor in charge of the Minneapolis office of the Commodity Exchange Authority, succeeding Joseph B. Withers, who retired last month after 20 years' service. Mr. Swoboda has been principal accountant in the Minneapolis office of the CEA since 1936, and for a number of years prior was with the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department. Long a resident of Minnesota, he was educated there in public schools and later attended the University of Minnesota.

Lots of leaf

Consumption of principal tobacco products is really something to beat all "pipe dreams." Bureau of Agricultural Economics gives these figures to show what every person 15 years old and over consumes: Total tobacco consumed in the U. S., 12.6 pounds apiece; 10.04 pounds as cigarettes, 1.27 pounds as cigars, and 1.32 pounds covering smoking, chewing, and snuff. Cigarettes run 392 billions and cigars hit about 6 billions in separates, not pounds. Total U. S. output of cigarettes totals 430 billion, including supplies for overseas forces and for export.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR FEBRUARY 25, 1953

Safety first, always

FIELD AND BRANCH offices of USDA are fast organizing working councils and committees to promote constant vigilance against accidents among employees and their associates and to eliminate needless fire hazards. Such effort is highly important and the members of such safety councils in the field are assured by Paul F. Loehler, chairman of the USDA Safety Council, that suggestions or assistance will be gladly supplied on request. To make this cooperative enterprise most effective, the USDA Safety Council would like to receive reports about meetings held by safety workers and program plans and factual material issued on this subject.

The USDA Safety Council functions as an official advisory body to the Office of the Secretary and the various agencies concerning the Department's farm safety program, and also to the Office of Personnel and all the agencies relating to the carrying out of both farm and employee safety programs. Working through appropriate committees, it affords a clearinghouse and consulting agency for much of the Department's active safety effort. It likewise works closely with the Federal Civil Defense organizations.

Officers and committee chairmen of the USDA Safety Council for 1953 are: Paul F. Loehler, Office of Plant and Operations, chairman; first vice chairman, Eugene J. Peterson, Soil Conservation Service; second vice chairman, Arthur M. Sowder, Forest Service; secretary, Melvin V. Cole, Farmers Home Administration.

Committee chairmen — Automotive, Wm. K. Knauff, P & O; Farm and Home, Miss Gertrude Drinker, FHA; Farm Work, Harry L. Garver, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering; Field Operations, John D. Rush, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Fire Prevention, Harold S. Timmins, FHA; Office and Laboratory, Marion E. Yount, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; Technical, Eugene J. Peterson, SCS; Publicity, Norman S. Bridges, Bureau of Animal Industry.

Technical consultants—Richard Gossom, Jr., Production and Marketing Administration; Seth Jackson, Forest Service; Special representatives for cooperating services—Carl E. Herrick, Office of Personnel; Sam P. Lyle, Extension Service; and the Editor of *USDA* for the Office of Information.

Among the duties of the USDA Safety Council are preparation of fact sheets on fire prevention and farm accident safeguards and policies. Ideas and facts on these subjects are welcome from field personnel to make the publications more effective than they have been in the past. Development of safety training materials and research projects relating to farm or home safety, as well as that of employees, is another significant element in the conduct of this work. Experience in reduction of accident and fire losses must be shared and exchanged, the officers of the Council emphasize. The toll of death and time loss, property damage, and pain must be attacked by every ounce of determination we have, they insist.

Foreign meat inspection

During fiscal 1952, the Federal Meat Inspection Service in the Bureau of Animal Industry inspected and passed a total of 339,798,690 pounds of fresh, cured, and canned meats from abroad. This total was about equal to that of the year before, which showed 33 percent increase over the previous high year. Argentina, Canada, and Mexico led a total of 25 foreign countries that exported meat products to this country in the past fiscal year.

Professional papers

Articles prepared by authors in USDA bureaus for publication in scientific and professional journals numbered 2,086 for 1952. This compares with 2,181 for 1951. Office of Information examined them, some critical reviews were prepared, notice of significant articles was made to Press Service, and others were referred to interested persons in the Department.

Seed testing book

AGRICULTURAL HANDBOOK No. 30 sells for $4 a copy by the Superintendent of Documents, and is probably cheap at the price considering what a treasury it is of small things—which the Book of Zachariah says we should "not despise the day of." This new publication, "Testing Agricultural and Vegetable Seeds," prepared by the Production and Marketing Administration in cooperation with the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, is comprehensive to the point of sweeping its field.

Here in a stout buckram-bound book of 500 pages are details on methods and equipment used in testing seeds for purity, viability, and other factors that have to do with their value in determining the promise of another crop.

The watchfulness that goes into this business of keeping up confidence in the seed supply and seeing to it that there is little variation in test results from causes outside the seed, is reflected in ingenious equipment and methods that are not only accurate but quick. Evidently today the rising tides of better varieties and the almost universal use of commercially grown seeds are accompanied by testing developments without which the industry could hardly have kept clean and efficient.

The book contains rules, laws, details on identification, testing, information on special classifications of crop plants and weeds, pathological considerations, and selected references. In addition to a general index it has lists of botanical names, common plant names, and 350 weeds by their botanical and common names. It is well sprinkled with pictures of ingenious seed testing devices and accessories, and in it you may read of the contributions of inventive men of the USDA, past and present, and those of State and Canadian experiment stations and the seed industry.

The drawings of weed seeds (more than 700 groups, notably more than 200 of the grass family, more than 100 legumes, and 60 composites, among many others) are marvels of mosaiclike detail of lines, dots, curves, etchings, and proportions. The artists, working like watchmakers, have been hunting out details which seem, on the basis of size, like the needle in the haystack.

Seed testing is a major interest to many phases of our agriculture. It is a good thing to have such a seed book brought up to date for wide use in educational, regulatory, and commercial fields.

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Davis heads CCC

PRIOR to his appointment, John H. Davis was general manager of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, Boston, Mass., and from 1944 to 1952 was executive secretary of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. Until recently the new CCC president was a member of the National Agricultural Research Policy Committee which was established under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946 to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on research matters.

Mr. Davis was born October 9, 1904, on a farm near Wellsville, Mo. He received his Bachelor's degree from Iowa State College and his Master's and his Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota, with a major in agricultural economics. After graduation Mr. Davis taught agriculture in Douds–Leando, Iowa, and later became superintendent of schools there. In 1938 he was school superintendent in Story City, Iowa.

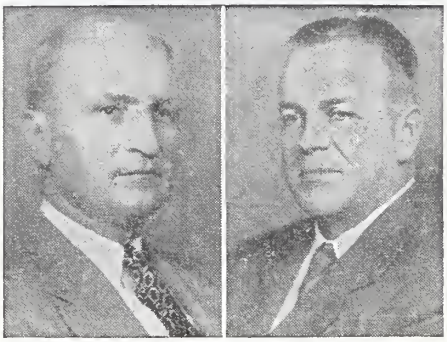
His first service in the Department was in 1936 when he worked as an economist on farm management problems. In 1940 Mr. Davis took a position with the Farm Credit Administration and from 1942 to 1944 he was chief of the wheat section in the Commodity Credit Corporation. He has attended most of the international conferences of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. He was a member of the U. S. delegation at the International Wheat Conference in Washington in 1948.

Mr. Davis is a member of the National City Christian Church in Washington, D. C., where he is an elder and a member of the national board of trustees. He has been a member of the Department of Church and Economic Life of the National Council of Churches of Christ in America since 1946, was chairman of the Conference on Agricultural Policy of the National Council of Churches at Haverford College, Pa., in 1951. He also has been a member of the board of the Washington Federation of Churches since 1951.

Mr. Davis married the former Miss Edna Frazier of Missouri Valley, Iowa. They have two sons, James Frazier and Herbert Lowell, both of whom are students at the University of Virginia.

George Engels retires

George E. Engels, who inaugurated market news and inspection work for the USDA at Buffalo, N. Y., in 1916–20 and was later connected with the original AAA and the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, has retired to live in Beverly, N. J.



SECRETARIAL AIDES—not previously pictured in USDA are Richard D. Aplin (left) who heads up the Administrative Group which includes: The Hearing Examiners, Library, Budget and Finance, Information, Personnel, and Plant and Operations. D. K. Broadhead (right) is Secretary Benson's Executive Assistant.

Goodwill makers

AS YOU KNOW, the job of handling foreign trainees and visitors under many Government technical assistance programs lies with our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. They have been coming at the rate of 3,500 a year and such aid has gone to about 25 countries. In remarking on the real core of the job that has been done with the help of the agricultural colleges, State experiment stations and other agencies of USDA, OFAR says that one must have listened to these foreigners when ready to return home to learn how much the little things in life count in contacts made with personnel in our country.

Someone who went out of his way to help * * * who carried his suitcase from the train * * * who lectured with clarity * * * who helped him find a book, a specialist, a process, or just to think an idea through * * * who asked him home for dinner * * * or took him to a picnic, a concert, or a ball game.

There are hundreds of others, too. Farmers and their families, county agents, the various USDA bureaus and their field personnel, local civic clubs, schools, churches, the farmers' organizations, farm equipment manufacturers, food processors, market men, and many industrial people.

OFAR authorities declare that this has helped with more than the mere training of visiting foreigners. It has made the difference between a sterile intellectual exercise and a vibrant, colorful experience with meaning and useful ideas for our friends from abroad.

BE A RED CROSS BLOOD DONOR

Space controls

A REVISED space control and record system which has been in effect for 6 years has functioned in a satisfactory way and accomplished a decided saving in labor and convenience for both the Real Estate Division of the Office of Plant and Operations and the various agencies of the Department.

The proper administration of the use of available space occupied by the Department in Washington, D. C., is influenced by continuous fluctuations in requirements and the diversified use of the space for offices, files, laboratories, and storages. The original method of space control and record keeping involved a cumbersome card-record system wherein cards were maintained for each room or other unit of occupied space. This meant that both the reporting of space used by the agencies and the compilation of the bimonthly space reports by P & O was a time-consuming and complex procedure.

Following considerable study, a simpler and better system was devised. A set of floor plans of the various buildings occupied was assembled and bound in a loose-leaf binder and the floor plans and areas occupied were indicated therein. A form was prepared to keep a record of all space transactions. On the double-entry accounting principles, it provided for the recording of increases or decreases in used space as credit or debit items to a predetermined space balance for each agency.

This form provides a simple means of determining space occupancy at any time, and since it is self-checking the labor is much reduced in handling space controls. No attempt is made to maintain detailed records of rooms and units in the main P & O file, as this is left to each agency which reports only total space and total personnel in each code group, with any current changes made therein.

Personnel exhibit

A display concerning the importance and value of good personnel management practices has been exhibited for awhile in the patio of the USDA Administration Building here. Henry Shepherd of the Office of Personnel and representatives of the agencies designed and staged it, with the help of the Exhibits Service, Office of Information.

Research appropriations

State and Federal appropriations for agricultural research total about $112 million of public funds for the past fiscal year. The State legislatures provided about $56 million, or about $4.50 for each $1 of the $12,500,000 made available to State experiment stations as Federal grants. Federal Government appropriations were about $56 million, of which $44 million was allotted to USDA agencies.

Nematodes for teachers

NEMATOLOGISTS at the Plant Industry Station point to the fact that a newly discovered stylet-bearing (or cell-sucking) nematode (genus Ditylenchus) very destructive to the mushroom crop has, in spite of this bad record, a point in its favor: It can be easily grown in quantity in artificial culture and for this reason promises to be a great convenience to teachers in this branch of biology. Having a number of the characteristics of closely related nematodes of economic importance such as *D. destructor,* the cause of potato rot, and *D. dipsaci,* the stem or bulb nematode, both of them encountered widely as "inside" parasites of the higher plants, this new one promises to make study of these similar ones more productive and easier.

The nematologists describe this new one as "of typical slender, fusiform shape; readily observable under the microscope in entire life cycle." And of particular importance to phytopathologists, they say, is its "capacity for prolonged existence in a dormant state," a condition known as anabiosis or quiescence. Eldon J. Cairns of the Plant Industry Station says cultures of this nematode have been kept growing on fungi for 3 years without a break.

Although first noticed as a parasite on mushrooms, it does not require any certain fungus for its source of nourishment, and is not too demanding as to other factors such as bacterial contamination, aeration, temperature or light. The nematode thrives just so long as conditions permit the fungus to grow. It has been cultured in fine capillary tubes with one nematode to a tube and in containers of various sizes up to wooden boxes filled with mushroom-inoculated compost ultimately containing hundreds of thousands of this Ditylenchus.

Media for the culture of these nematodes may be obtained from dealers in mushroom spawn. The nematodes of this species may be obtained by teachers and investigators from the Division of Nematology, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

Bibliography award

The Oberly Memorial Award is given every 2 years to the citizen who compiles the best bibliography in agriculture and related sciences. The closing date for entries for the 1953 award is April 15, 1953. Address entries to D. A. Brown, Agriculture Library, Mumford Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. Send seven copies of each bibliography with a letter stating that it is being placed in competition. The award, derived from a memorial fund in memory of Eunice R. Oberly, will be given at the June 1953 conference of the American Library Association at Los Angeles.

Said on the side

LOOKING OUT across our old valley in wintertime, you'd never think there was any activity going on worth mentioning—but few of us old timers with many congealed seasons spent amid the frosty hills ever lose sight of the truth that city folks often miss. The cold snaps followed by warm thaws, and the old stubble and buried roots in the land and the mud and ice and wind are all plenty busy churning up and working over our soil storehouses against the time when the mellow seedbeds must be prepared. You march out there in the brisk weather and look for little signs of life—the underground mystic business that comes along well ahead of the first green flush of the willows down there by the creek. The land feels sort of quaking and pulsating as you walk along and the breeze has a tiny tang of something-to-come in it. Maybe you spy a winter-bound blue jay or an early-bird robin perking his head sidewise to gobble up the cocoons and dry seeds by the fence rows; hoping against hope that some ambitious cutworm or grub will get out of bed too soon and supply a March breakfast for our best insect controller. The cows over there in the stackyard lean against the fence and peer wistfully at the faint vernal tint of the back pasture. Your dog runs on ahead of you to stop and dig with fury at some old-time gopher hole just as though it was June and pest-killing time again. You stoop over the fall furrows where you took a soil sample to have a test run made, and then go into the granary to check the bags of seed oats and mixed fertilizer. Last of all, you stand on the porch at sundown and survey the cozy farms of your neighbors down the valley, and whistle a kind of hopeful overture of your own before the leafy curtain rises on another growing spell. And late that same night the resonant skyward honk of the northbound birds of passage routs you up to realize that nature's things keep right on living and it takes a good valley farmer to keep in step with plenty and abreast with abundance.

Your official record

Standard Form No. 2806 is the one official Federal form that is of greatest importance to employees. It contains the full authentic record of your services and the retirement deductions from your salary. In case of transfers made to another agency in the Department or to another department this form records it and upon separation from the service your Form 2806 goes to the Civil Service Commission for final filing. Upon retirement all of your 2806 forms on file are combined and used in determining your entire service record and retirement deductions upon which retirement payments are based.

Policy directive

DIRECTOR DODGE of the Bureau of the Budget on February 4 issued an official administrative directive relating to personnel, programs, and construction in the Federal Government operations. Three key paragraphs of the Director's statement are added herewith:

Personnel.—It is the policy to achieve a progressive reduction of Government personnel. To accomplish this each department and agency head shall immediately restrict the hiring of additional personnel. No vacancies shall be filled until it has been determined that the positions represented by the vacancies cannot be eliminated; existing employees cannot be shifted to cover the vacancies; and increased efficiency, better utilization of personnel, or changes in standards and policies make the additions unnecessary.

Construction.—It is the policy to proceed only with projects which are clearly essential, and on such projects to employ the strictest standards of economy. (All proposed or authorized construction and all going construction are subject to review.)

Programs.—It is the policy to operate at a minimum level of costs and expenditures. This requires that the necessity for all work be questioned and action be taken to eliminate unnecessary programs and hold the remainder to minimum levels.

Audit ordered

All corporations and lending agencies of USDA are being audited at the direction of Secretary Ezra Taft Benson as a prudent move at the beginning of his term of office. He asked all employees to give the General Accounting Office full access to all records in question, except those specifically prohibited from examination by law or Executive order. But the existence of Department regulations that limit general availability of records will not apply against agents doing the audit. Audits are therefore under way in Commodity Credit Corporation, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Farmers Home Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, and the banks and corporations supervised by the Farm Credit Administration.

Reemployments made permanent

Department Circular No. 698 tells about provisions for the reemployment with permanent tenure of certain groups of former employees, effective December 31, 1952. Instructions in the circular give steps for conversion of indefinite appointments to permanent reemployments. Agencies are asked to make adjustments in the retention preference records and in active reduction in force registers which will reflect the new retention standing of employees whose appointments are changed.

USDA employment turnover

The employment turnover in USDA as of December 31, 1952 was 4.5 percent. In December 1950 it was 4 percent and in the same month of 1951 it was 4.4 percent. December is often a low month and September is usually one of the high months in employee turnover. For September in 1950, 1951, and 1952, the turnover rates were 13.1 percent, 11.5 percent, and 12.3 percent respectively. To get anything comparable to these September figures one goes back to such previous high turnover points as June and July 1947, when there was a considerable reduction in force. These respective months had large turnovers of 12.1 and 14.4 percent.

Readers' reminders

Compensation guide

As a help in keeping Federal employees informed about accident compensation a pamphlet has been issued entitled "What Every Federal Employee Should Know About the Federal Employees' Compensation Act." It's a question and answer summary. It was distributed generally about 2 years ago, but those wanting fresh copies may get them for 5 cents at the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office. The official Blue Book on the compensation law with full regulations in it, used as a basis for training courses, has been distributed to all agency personnel offices.

Gas concentrations

A new device that takes the guesswork out of commercial fumigation by making accurate measurements of fumigation gas concentrations has been perfected by G. L. Phillips and J. W. Bulger, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Get details of this invention by writing the editor of *USDA* for No. 138.

Nebraska statistics

A. E. Anderson, agricultural statistician for the State-Federal Estimating Service at the Nebraska State Department of Agriculture reports that their new 88-page bulletin of statistics on Nebraska agriculture is ready for free distribution. Address him at P. O. Box 1911, Lincoln 1, Nebr.

Vegetable book out

The 1953 revision or second edition of "Vegetable Growing" by James S. Shoemaker, Head of Horticulture Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, is now available. Much new material which is the result of research and practical experience is included in this revision. Soils, fertilizers, irrigation, pest and weed control, and similar subjects are discussed where they have direct application to the treatment of the specific vegetable crop. Over 300 new references have been added in the text. Also additions and changes have been made in the illustrations. "Vegetable Growing" is published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, N. Y.

Trees and shrubs for prairies

Circular No. 912, dated January 1953, is a helpful report on extensive adaptability tests on shrubs and trees for use as windbreaks on the Northern Great Plains, covering the entire experimental period from 1913 through 1950 with species secured from abroad and from local selections and nurseries. Recommended species are listed for successful growth under both dry conditions and extreme cold. Written by Ernest J. George, silviculturist, it may be secured for 20 cents a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

Cooperative growth

Farm Credit Administration issued its annual digest of the farmers' cooperative situation recently. This gives an over-all picture of the numbers, membership, and business volume of the Nation's agricultural cooperative business concerns, with a State breakdown. Send to *USDA* Editor for No. 2736.

Grassland book

"Grasses and Grassland Farming," by Hi W. Staten, professor of agronomy, Oklahoma A. & M. College, is an up-to-date discussion of many points in the maintenance of year-round pastures and meadows. It covers many regions of the country and includes farm experiences in grassland production. It is published by Devin-Adair Company, New York City, and sells for $5 at bookstores.

Brief and choice

Any twin beef calves?

Any stockman within 200 miles of Beltsville, Md. who has identical—and we mean identical—twin beef calves to spare for further feeding tests by the Bureau of Animal Industry, is urged to notify Dr. C. F. Winchester of the BAI at the Research Center. The right age is 4 months old or under, and grades and crossbreds are acceptable.

Pace pictures ceremony

George Pace, visual specialist for the Federal Extension Service, expects to attend the anniversary dedication program to be held at the Porter farm near Terrell, Tex., on February 26. Prints of his 16 mm. black-and-white motion picture film will be made available to State extension editors without cost for local showings.

Cooperative forestry

The U. S. Forest Service and the States do much cooperative work to promote and protect the welfare of and profits from farm forest tracts and farm woodlots. According to the annual report by Forest Service, 27,933 individual farmers were thus assisted cooperatively, involving about 2,500,000 acres of woodland, on which 609,560 million board feet of wood products were harvested. This had a gross estimated sales value of $13,924,940. New York, Vermont, Virginia, Maryland, and Wisconsin farmers led in such cooperative forest development work with public agencies.

Asher Hobson retires

Dr. Asher Hobson, Nationally known farm economist and formerly head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin, has retired. He studied first with Dr. H. C. Taylor at Wisconsin and then took his Doctors degree in Switzerland. He served as American delegate to the Institute of Agriculture at Rome for 7 years and worked closely with the USDA at various times. He was an officer of the American Farm Economics Association and recently chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Institute of Cooperation.

Anderson moves

Calvin Anderson, extension editor at the College of Agriculture at Pullman, Wash., for several years, has left that institution. He has become an associate editor of the farm magazines included in the Pacific Northwest Farm Quad at Spokane, Wash. Al Bond, formerly with the USDA Radio Service, has taken Mr. Anderson's place at Pullman.

Welcome strangers

The Foreign Student Section of the Extension Service reports that between the years of 1948 and 1952 there were 402 International Farm Youth Exchangees from abroad. Listed by States and Territories, Iowa led with 30 foreign students. All States except 4 were represented. Those States listing 10 or more students were: Kansas 26; Arkansas 21; Ohio 17; Kentucky 16; California, Montana, and Massachusetts 13 each; Georgia 12; South Dakota 11; Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin 10 each.

Review of personnel

Carl E. Herrick, assistant to the Director of the Office of Personnel, has completed a swing through the California area. He reviewed the personnel activities of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Forest Service, Production and Marketing Administration, and the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry.

For services rendered

Seven Government agencies and departments outside of USDA contributed service fees for inspections made by the Department's Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Division during the 1952 fiscal year. The total collections of such fees amounted to $2,032,620. Of this sum, the Department of the Army paid $299,197 in fees for services rendered. Other outside agencies serviced were the Navy Department, Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, Marine Corps, General Services Administration, and Veterans' Administration—aside from $1,688,940 collected in commercial and continuous inspections.

"Commander" Doyle, USNR

Mrs. Mabel Doyle, Office of Information, is promoted to the highest permanent rank permitted for a woman in the U. S. Navy—that of WAVES Commander. Mrs. Doyle is now enrolled in the Naval Reserves, after spending 7 years of active duty with the WAVES at Washington, D. C. Her father was in the civilian service of the Navy Department for several years.

Official changes

Dr. C. A. Schuler succeeds Dr. W. R. Atkins as inspector in charge at Kinston, N. C., for the Bureau of Animal Industry. Dr. Atkins has charge of a new station at Bartow, Fla. Dr. J. A. Skordahl succeeds Dr. C. A. Hulbush as inspector at Walla Walla, Wash., the latter being on extended sick leave.

FHA production loans

About 27,000 farmers came into the production-loans program of the Farmers Home Administration in fiscal 1952. Nearly half of them were war veterans, who receive preference for loans. Two changes occurred in the general pattern of lending: (1) The average loan was much larger than in other years, because of legislation approved August 23, 1951; (2) Greater emphasis than ever before was given to making loans that would bring about adjustments and improvements in inadequate farming systems. Only in exceptional cases were loans approved solely to finance seasonal operating expenses. Altogether, loan advances totaled $123,994,016—an increase of about 16 percent over 1951 lending.

Death of Dr. Richards

Dr. C. Audrey Richards, who for many years was chief of the Division of Forest Pathology in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, with offices at the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis., died January 26. Starting her career at the Madison laboratories in 1917, Dr. Richards directed much fundamental research in the causes and prevention of decay, stain, and mold in various wood products. She earned bachelor and master degrees at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and a doctorate at the University of Wisconsin. She taught pathology courses at the University of Wisconsin and trained numerous widely known scientists in her own laboratory at Madison.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR MARCH 11, 1953

Science seekers

THERE WAS an average of 78 visitors for every one of the 253 workdays at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., during 1952. Twenty-one of these 78 visitors were foreign research technicians. Fifty-seven were U. S. citizens. During 1952 2,360 foreign technicians from 75 countries and 7,405 U. S. citizens from 50 States and Territories received information, or had demonstrated to them, or took part in some phase of scientific agricultural research being conducted by the Research Center's staff of scientists.

Perhaps more important than the number of visitors is the actual time spent by them at the Agricultural Research Center. The majority of the foreign visitors spend from 1 to 3 days at the Center either previous or subsequent to study periods in one of the States. These visitors were usually technicians in some phase of agricultural research and the desire and practice of these foreign technicians was to talk shop with their counterparts at the Center.

Taking a conservative figure of 2 man-days (and most workers estimate it should be 3 man-days) as the estimated time spent by one or another of the U. S. technicians in the role as host at Beltsville in the interchange of technical information the 2,360 foreign visitors used the equivalent time of 4,720 man-days time of scientists during 1952. This, on the basis of 253 workdays during the year, was equivalent to nearly 19 man-years time devoted to research conferences and training on technical agricultural research assistance.

It is estimated that U. S. citizens spent much shorter periods of time with technicians at the Center. However, it should be pointed out that the normal contacts and conferences of the research personnel with U. S. citizens seeking advice are not a matter of record as are visits by foreign agriculturists. Appointments and conferences are usually arranged by each individual scientist with domestic visitors.

In summary, the 9,765 visitors, including foreign technicians and U. S. citizens, made a total of 19,995 visits as individuals or groups to Bureaus at Beltsville during 1952. The foreign technicians made 5,245 visits while the U. S. citizens accounted for 14,450 visits to the various Bureaus at the Agricultural Research Center, making an average of 21 visits per day by the foreign nationals and 57 visits per day by U. S. citizens or an average of 78 visits per workday during the year.

Climate made to order

USDA entomologists at work in Hawaii are simulating the climatic areas of this country where harmful fruitflies from the tropics might thrive and multiply. How they are doing this and some facts about the dangers from possible migration of these pests to the United States are to be had by asking the editor of *USDA* for No. 245.

Electric house heating

The principles of electric heating equipment, estimating and computing installation requirements, and the serving of house heating loads together with directory of manufacturers of this electric equipment are combined in REA Bulletin 142–1, 14 pages printed. Copies may be had from your nearest Rural Electrification cooperative office or from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, for 15 cents per copy.

Revisions

Our Division of Publications in the Office of Information has some 40 to 45 new revisions of bulletins and circulars in sight to handle by July 1. They are being submitted by the various bureaus and agencies so as to keep current publications up to date.

Faithful performance bonds

The Comptroller General has ruled that employees who supply faithful performance bonds are liable for financial losses to the Government occasioned by neglect, errors or mistakes in judgment while handling public property. This means that such bonds are part of the employment contract, so that property management is covered by the same security rules as the handling of Government funds.

This makes sense

WRITERS on farm subjects strive to make themselves clear. This is not always easy, as every writer knows, but the new Style Manual of the Government Printing Office should prove a great help in getting out more timely and effective publications and releases. The Style Manual, Revised, as of January 1953, is now in distribution.

In reading, we understand more quickly and better if the writer is sure of the proper terms and how to present his facts and observations in good form. USDA reports to the farmer and the general public carry their message best when they are written clearly, well edited, and polished free of error, obscurity, and verbal deadwood. It is good news that the Style Manual is more than ever "an agricultural book."

On request of Chairman George R. Ranow of the Style Board of GPO, members of the Editorial Section of the Division of Publications, O of I, collected proposals for style changes from information officers and editors throughout USDA. Preliminary recommendations, revised material for lists, questions on old and new rules poured in from bureau offices for months, running to more than 100 typed pages. This material was studied, reviewed, and edited in consultation with the bureaus and the Board, then recopied and sent to Mr. Ranow, both for use of the Board in reorganizing the book and for printing in its sections.

Bloodmobile coming

The Red Cross mobile unit will return to the Department at Washington to obtain blood urgently needed in civilian and military emergencies. The future dates for its appearance are April 21 and May 29.

Live USDA club

Dallas, Tex., employees maintain one of the livest and most effective USDA clubs dedicated to genuine service welfare and improvement. Howard Martin, area finance officer for Farmers Home Adminstration, is president, and they have a board of 18 directors and several working committees busy all the time.

More deserved honors

Three present or former USDA workers were honored as alumni of the Institute of Agriculture at Minnesota University at the dedication of the new St. Paul campus library building on January 14. They are Ralph M. Lindgren, chief of forest pathology research at the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis., Frank F. Marshall, Litchfield, Minn., Minnesota's first county agent and a former Meeker County supervisor of Farmers Home Administration; and Dr. Herman A. Rodenhiser, head of the USDA Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases, Beltsville, Md.

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Operations Chief

FOR NEARLY 20 years Richard D. Aplin, Assistant to the Secretary, has been identified almost continuously with milk marketing problems in the Northeastern States, principally the Boston area. Just prior to his appointment he was administrator of the Federal milk marketing orders for the Greater Boston and three other Massachusetts milk marketing areas. Some of the procedures and formulas for marketing milk were worked out under his leadership and have been adopted in a number of milk marketing areas. One of the most important of these was the milk price formula put into effect in 1948 which provides for automatic changes in the price of milk to farmers as general economic conditions change.

Mr. Aplin was born in 1903 on a dairy farm at Putney, Vt. This farm has been the Aplin family homestead since 1791 for five generations. The new assistant is a graduate of the University of Vermont, having received his Bachelor's degree there in 1924 and his Master's degree in 1926. He specialized in animal husbandry and agricultural economics. He worked on cost of production estimate for the U. S. Tariff Commission in 1926 and 1927, after which he became county agricultural agent in Addison County, Vt. As a county agent Mr. Aplin concerned himself with farmers' marketing problems and carried on educational campaigns urging farmers to produce and market milk more evenly throughout the year. After three years as a county agent he operated a large dairy farm at Basin Harbor for a year and then became county agent at large for the Vermont Extension Service. In 1932 he became Extension Economist in Marketing at the University of Vermont.

In 1933, when the first Boston milk license and marketing agreement was put into effect, Mr. Aplin helped to administer it. Since that time, except for a brief period in 1936 when he administered a milk marketing license in Washington, D. C., he has been active in numerous capacities in the administration of milk marketing in the Boston areas. Mr. Aplin married Amanda Davison of Craftsbury, Vt., in 1927. They have one son, Richard Davison Aplin, who is a graduate student in agricultural economics at the University of California.

His present assignment is to direct the general administrative offices within the Department, often known as the "housekeeping" agencies.

Research spending

TOTAL ESTIMATED sums expended for research and development in fiscal year 1952 by agencies of the Federal Government are given in the first annual report of the National Science Foundation. This report by Director Alan T. Waterman is House Document 64, 83d Congress, 1st session. Its listing of the principal research expenditures estimated by the Foundation from available records are:

For military functions, by the Air Force, Army, and Navy, $890,000,000; Atomic Energy Commission, $162,900,000; Department of Agriculture, $51,700,000; National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, $49,400,000; Public Health Service in the Federal Security Agency, $38,500,000; Department of the Interior, $31,900,000; Department of Commerce, $15,400,000; and "Other Agencies," $19,300,000.

A preliminary estimate of the Federal funds used in fiscal 1952 for scientific research and development at nonprofit institutions is included. The sum for biological, medical, and agricultural work is given as $69,800,000; that for physical, mathematical, and engineering work, $254,900,000; and for the social sciences, $16,600,000.

The National Science Foundation consists of a Board of 24 and a Director appointed by the President with the consent of the Senate. The Foundation analyzes and accepts grants for basic research and awards graduate fellowships.

DuMars moves

Maurice DuMars, former deputy director of the Office of Information, has transferred to the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, where he is assistant to the Chief. Mr. DuMars is a native of Kansas and a graduate of Kansas State College, Manhattan, and has served in the Office of Information for several years.

Louisiana's oldest

Louisiana's oldest county agricultural agent in point of length of service is C. P. Seab. He has been on the job there since 1914. Miss Marjorie Arbour, Louisiana State extension editor, has interested Mr. Seab in multiplying his useful work by means of newspaper and radio contacts.

Farmers' insurance

According to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, more farmers would benefit from hospital insurance if it were made available to them on a group basis. Farmers' cooperatives in a few States now offer group insurance to their members at reduced rates, with premiums deducted from members' checks of refund accounts and remitted in bulk to the insurance firms. John Elickson and Ralph Botts of BAE point out that three out of four farm babies are now born in hospitals, as compared with only half in 1940 and a tenth of them in 1930.

Farm facility files

ARE YOU aware that there is a mechanical tree planter on the market which can plant 10,000 trees during an 8-hour day in heavy sod, unprepared cut-over timber land, through roots and scrub, over stumps and logs—or that the tying mechanism on one of the new automatic hay balers contains a 4-coil system making two knots per tie, and will make approximately 675 bales of hay without reloading? Information on these and thousands of other items is available in PMA's Office of Materials and Facilities.

OMF, in discharging its part of USDA's claimant agency responsibilities under the Defense Production Act, maintains a staff of specialists who combine practical experience with technical knowledge in the fields of farm machinery, petroleum and other farm supplies, on-farm construction, chemicals, fertilizer, food processing facilities and containers. Consequently a log of valuable information, covering these fields, has been accumulated over a period of years. Much of that information is readily available to the Department's employees, to farmers, and to industry.

OMF's Farm Machinery and Supplies Staff, for instance, has a file containing catalogs and other descriptive literature for several hundred items of farm machinery and equipment produced by approximately one thousand manufacturers. It is believed to be the most complete file of its kind in the United States. Many of the Department's employees outside OMF as well as representatives from other governments are making use of it.

The Farm Machinery and Supplies Staff also can provide information on the production and distribution of farm machinery and equipment as well as the quantities of steel, copper, and aluminum used in its production. Through the results of surveys, extending into all of the Nation's agricultural counties, information is available on requirements for, and trends in usage of, various items of farm machinery nad equipment. In addition this staff can provide similar information regarding on-farm construction, steel merchant trade products, tires and rubber products, petroleum and solid fuels. Through close association with industry and suppliers of materials, and with a knowledge of the condition of the market, forecasts can be made regarding production and availability of these items.

Floral bulb entry

BASED ON their success with a more positive and safer system to keep destructive insects and plant diseases out of this country (which was instituted 2 years ago for Holland flower bulb imports by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine), a similar system was extended to Belgium in 1952.

Hitherto all inspections of imported flower bulbs were made at the port of entry here. At the request of Dutch exporters and the Government of the Netherlands, Bureau inspectors in 1951 went to Holland to do the inspection prior to bulb shipments. This arrangement proved more efficient and less expensive than when the bulbs were examined at the congested and poorly lighted piers at some United States ports. More important, however, the new plan permits spotting dangerous pests before they leave the country of origin, where they may be disposed of without running risks of their possible escape pending examination in this country.

Moreover, the American inspectors can examine many more bulbs over there than they can possibly inspect here, because they are able to check them over on racks in storage sheds or while they are being packed, and on the piers.

Because Dutch and Belgian inspectors work side by side with American inspectors, the foreign officials learn what our requirements are so that they can get their exportable material sorted, cleaned, and prepared for shipment to fulfill United States regulations. The importers here are also able to avoid some losses which have occurred previously because of refusal of shipments upon arrival here on account of the presence of injurious pests.

Said on the side

THE PITCHFORK, the old bull, and the kerosene-can formed the worst tricky trio to the inhabitants of our old valley many moons ago. We have not eliminated them all but much has been done in recent years to cut their numbers and liability as accident provokers. Farmers round about have built stout bullpens and use oak leading staffs and nose rings for the pawing bovines, or have subscribed to artificial breeding co-ops. Hay baling and the combine reduce some of the pitchfork dangers. Modern ranges and furnaces deprive careless women of the chance to singe their hair and eyebrows with those coal-oil lighting shortcuts to the hospital. In place of all and sundry foolkillers and bruise breeders that we once treated with contempt and repented in sorrow, modern agriculture in our old valley has acquired enough newfangled mishaps and mayhem incentives to warn the most callous of ordinary risk-takers. In the whirling vortex of farm gears, sprockets, automatic knives, pulleys, elevators, belts, levers, hot wires, and short circuits, the valley denizens begin each dawn alert to avoid lurking dangers. Often they band together for safety meetings and 4–H club demonstrations because manpower has shrunk and the machinery used to replace it is met with caution and respect. Even out there beyond the apparent security and tranquillity of the farmstead we utilize more swift and relentless mechanisms along the old valley roads than was ever dreamed of by our rugged ox-team founders. Hence prudence walks with production so that we may live longer and work better in an age that has accepted the marvels of today and tomorrow as aids to an abundance hitherto unknown.

Brief and choice

Monica Crocker retires

Mrs. Monica Crocker, a native of England who joined the Department in 1935 in personnel services, retired on January 17. Mrs. Crocker obtained U. S. citizenship in 1921 upon her marriage. Heads of the Office of Personnel staged a farewell party for her and presented her with appropriate gifts.

What dairy cows ate

Estimates of the amount of concentrates, roughage and pasture required to maintain the dairy herds of the country in 1952 have been compiled and issued in the usual annual circular by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Write the Bureau direct.

From "fan" mail

Dr. C. G. King, scientific head of the Nutrition Foundation, Inc., New York City, wrote to Dr. P. V. Cardon, USDA Graduate School: "Hardly an issue of the USDA Employee News Bulletin crosses my desk without contributing information of interest and an increased sense of enjoyment in taking part in a small way in the great work the Department does. The note in the September 10 issue struck a sensitive spot with me to note the headway you are making in building up the graduate work of USDA on a very broad and advanced basis."

Forest economics

Forest Service states that in 1951 our national forests returned to the U. S. Treasury $1,194,000 more than the whole cost of their protection and management. During the past year more than 4,688 million board feet of timber were cut from these forests—highest cut in the entire history of the Forest Service. In the matter of relative loss to growing timber, it is said that insects and diseases are more injurious than fire, and are therefore listed for continuous-control studies.

Lily-loving lice

A new aphid pest feeding voraciously on the undersides of the lower leaves of lily plants has appeared in alarming numbers along the Pacific Coast from Washington south to San Francisco. USDA entomologists who are busy perfecting suitable control for this floral pest declare that effective checking of this aphid rests mostly with the use of high-pressure spray equipment that will reach the chief feeding areas of the insect on the backs of the leaves.

Honors to Si Evans

C. M. (Si) Evans, Dallas, Tex., pioneer in the Extension Service at Texas A&M College, who subsequently served as regional director for the old Farm Security Administration, and also with the Poultry Branch and the Dairy Branch of Production and Marketing Administration, has received a certificate of merit from the Texas State Fair. As a member of its livestock and dairy committee, he led in the staging of the Pan American Holstein cattle show for 1952.

Conservation maps

To show some of the ways in which agricultural conservation programs meet the particular conservation needs of States and counties, and the extent and distribution of these programs, a new map book has been issued by the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch—formerly in the Production and Marketing Administration. These maps for 1951 results may be secured from the Office of Information Services, PMA, or possibly from your nearest PMA office.

Better than Nobel prize

A touching reward came to Dr. Selman A. Waksman, bacteriologist of the Rutgers Experiment Station when he visited Stockholm early in December. A little girl and her father came to see him at his hotel. The little girl handed Dr. Waksman a bouquet of five red carnations—one for each year she has lived after escaping meningitis dangers as a result of his discovery of Streptomycin. Waksman was visibly moved. "This is the most heart-warming thing that has ever happened to me. I consider it a greater honor even than receiving the Nobel prize," he said.

Veteran farm loans

As in every year since the war, most of the farm ownership loans in 1952 went to veterans, who have preference under the Farmers Home Administration Act. Veterans received 1,465 of the 1,550 initial direct loans and 249 of the 1,131 initial insured loans. They also received 392 subsequent loans. Direct loans to veterans coming into the program in 1952 totaled $15,359,911 or 94 percent of the amount used for new loans. Including subsequent loans, veterans received $16,484,446 or 87 percent of the year's appropriation. Insured loans made to veterans totaled $2,155,339.

Growing words

Dr. Victor R. Boswell, chief of Plant Industry's Division of Vegetable Crops and Diseases, defines "plant breeding" as used in a broad sense in a recent article in *Economic Botany,* as meaning "purposeful improvement in the hereditary make-up of plants by any method." "Vegetable industry"—used in a broad sense in the same article—"includes not only the growing of vegetable crops, but also the production of seed for growing them, and the distribution and processing of vegetables. It is now not enough," says Boswell, "to develop a variety that will be merely productive, or productive and attractive at harvest time. A variety must also be adapted to our mechanized method of farming and of preservation and distribution of foods."

Withholding tax

THE FEDERAL Government is presently cooperating with the States of Oregon and Vermont and the Territory of Hawaii by means of a formal agreement to withhold the amounts of the specified State or Territorial income tax from the salaries and wages of Federal employees who regularly work in these areas. Only where both residents and nonresidents who work in the State are alike subject to withholding of income tax does the Federal Government agree to have these sums withheld from the employee payrolls.

Compensation of members of the Armed Forces is exempt from the agreement, which is authorized by the Act of July 17, 1952, and Executive Order No. 10407 dated November 25, 1952. Any delinquent tax liabilities of any Federal employees are not to be collected by the Federal agencies for payment to the States. This is according to the agreement entered into by the Secretary of the Treasury and the respective States and Territories named. The Hawaii withholding tax is 2 percent of the gross income while Oregon's tax is 1 percent and Vermont's withholding rate varies by income levels.

USDA's Office of Budget and Finance has issued memoranda to all the fiscal officers in the agencies affected by the withholding laws in these two States and one Territory. It instructs them on the procedures covering the proper handling of this new and extra withholding tax in respect to all USDA employees who come under its provisions.

For Oregon and Vermont the withholding law affecting Federal workers became effective February 15, 1953, and for Hawaii it was operative on January 18, 1953. Payrolls of employees subjected to these isolated instances of tax withholding will be suitably adjusted on and after the above dates. Alaska's withholding tax exempts Federal employees entirely for the present.

USDA has 6 agencies in both Hawaii and Vermont and 10 in Oregon. Agencies with employees working in all three withholding tax areas include Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Bureau of Animal Industry, Farmers Home Administration, and Production and Marketing Administration. Those found in only two affected States are Forest Service and the Office of the Solicitor. Those located in only one affected area are Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, and Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The exact number of employees involved is not determined.

Fulghum to return

Ralph Fulghum of the information staff in the Extension Service plans to sail for home from LeHavre, France, on March 16. He has been in France about a year and aided materially in strengthening the use of agricultural communicative services abroad.

Orange ignorance

In spite of all the achievements of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry with orange juice concentrate, Dr. G. E. Hilbert, its chief, still confesses a large area of ignorance about what real nutritive values there are in orange products. He says it is more than a sugar solution, or citric acid, flavoring oils, vitamin C, and carotene combined. He points to what the chemist finds in oranges—11 amino acids, 17 carotenoid pigments, and 11 flavonoids, of which 8 have never been fully identified. It appears from this that only foolish men quit wondering.

Brief and choice

Support price note

On January 28, Secretary Benson briefly reviewed the trend of farm prices and said that no major changes seem likely in the next several months in view of continued high level of consumer incomes. He said that "we shall continue to use such price-supporting devices as are available to us when and if prices sag below the levels prescribed by Congress."

BEPQ status

The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine ranks second in appropriations among the ARA research bureaus. Available funds are used on over 500 individual lines of research, control, regulatory, and quarantine work. It employs 2,200 full-time and 500 to 1,000 seasonal part-time workers, located in about 400 individual laboratories or offices in 45 States and about 25 locations in Territories, possessions, and foreign lands.

Stored grain insects

A standing committee of USDA is working on ways and means to help the grain industry and farmers in their efforts to reduce the hazards of insect pests in stored cereals. The idea is to issue ample materials of various kinds in a wide educational effort with the State colleges of agriculture cooperating. The Food and Drug Administration expects to begin seizure and condemnation of infested consignments of grains next July 1.

Grain market news

On January 9 the first issue of the new grain market news and statistical report was distributed to interested persons throughout the country by Grain Branch of Production and Marketing Administration. It appears weekly and gives current and review figures on movements, storages and prices of cereals and oil seeds. Anyone directly interested in grain affairs may obtain this report on request to Thomas J. McGuire, Chief, Market News and Services, Grain Branch, PMA, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

Dedicate St. Louis market

The seventeenth modern, efficient, and well arranged wholesale produce market constructed or modernized from plans developed by the Marketing and Facilities Research Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration was dedicated at St. Louis, Mo., January 31. Costing about 4 million dollars, this market is one of the country's largest and provides space for more than 100 wholesalers with suitable railway and truck accomodations.

Food dollar facts

According to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, more of the consumer's food dollar has been going for marketing charges in recent months. The farm value of the market-basket foods averaged 7 percent lower in the last quarter of 1952 than in the same period of 1951. The farmer's share declined to an average of 48 cents for 1952 against about 50 cents for each dollar spent a year earlier for farm-produced foods.

Mayo follows Livingston

Arthur V. Mayo is the new supervisor in charge of the Chicago office of the Commodity Exchange Authority. Starting as an accountant in the same office in 1929 after some time in the farming and grain business, Mr. Mayo follows George Livingston, who retires after heading the Chicago CEA office since 1944. Mr. Livingston once taught agronomy at Iowa State College and was a former chief of the USDA Bureau of Markets.

Cattle marketing

Secretary Benson has called upon producers to follow an orderly pattern of marketing and processing and distributing agencies to develop good consumer demand for beef. His remarks in full may be had from the editor of *USDA* by asking for No. 259.

For cotton growers

Cotton classification and market news service in 1953 under the Smith-Doxey Act may be obtained by any group of producers organized to promote the improvement of cotton which adopts a variety, files an application, arranges for sampling, and meets other requirements for eligibility. Field offices of the Cotton Branch of PMA are ready to receive these applications, which should be filed as soon after planting time as possible. Local classing offices in the major cotton States have application blanks and give instructions.

Virgin Islands station

R. W. Trullinger, Chief, Office of Experiment Stations, has made a trip to see the installations and equipment at the Virgin Islands research and extension station. The work is in direct charge of Dr. J. R. King, Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I. Their technical staff, Dr. Trullinger says, consists of soils and a horticultural specialist, one for forages and field crops, plus two extension specialists—one for 4–H clubs and the other for health and nutrition. He states that considerable progress has been made in the past six months in establishing a scientific center to meet local needs. Small farmers show much interest in its work.

Cooler by crossing

Forty-one crossbred heifer calves—all descendants of the 2 Red Sindhi bulls imported from India by the Bureau of Dairy Industry in 1946—were born in the Southern Regional Dairy Cattle Breeding Project the past year, making a total of 187 crossbred females of various ages on hand at the end of the fiscal year. Six purebred Sindhis (3 of each sex) have been born in this country. The ultimate objective of this breeding project, in which the Bureau is co-operating with the State experiment stations of Louisiana, Georgia, Texas, and South Carolina, is to develop heat-resistant dairy cattle for the South.

Home economics theses

A compilation of 449 theses for masters and doctors degrees and 348 masters degrees without theses in the field of home economics and related subjects appear as title references arranged by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics in cooperation with the Home Economics Service, Office of Education, Federal Security Agency. The material is issued as PA–207 to aid research workers and graduate students. It also has a list of graduates getting masters degrees without theses which serves as a directory of likely recruits with desired research experience in this field. It covers the 1951–52 period. *USDA* has no copies to send.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR MARCH 25, 1953

Action-packed time

SECRETARY BENSON and associates in USDA have moved forward on many fronts in their consideration of various complex agricultural commodity situations since February 1 this year. Readers will appreciate a brief chronological review of numerous actions taken in this regard, as recorded in the official Department press releases.

February 3—The Secretary stresses orderly cattle marketing and development of consumer demand for beef. February 5—The Secretary issues a general statement on agricultural policy to be followed in his administration. February 6—The Secretary calls an industry-wide cotton conference for February 12 and a dairy industry conference for February 17. February 9—The Secretary announces continuation of the emergency hay program to designated drought areas through an additional allocation of $1,500,000 from the Federal Disaster Relief Coordinator.

February 13—The Secretary appoints a 7-man committee to study the cotton export situation and make recommendations. February 16—The Secretary comments on the livestock inventory as of January 1, 1953. February 18—The Secretary emphasizes the problems assumed by his administration under the current dairy price support purchase program and also names a 9-man cottonseed advisory committee. February 19—Commodity Credit Corporation says it will buy moderate amounts of new corn and increase its marketings of off-grade corn ahead of the warm weather.

February 26—The Secretary calls an industry-wide conference of 23 representatives of all phases of the turkey industry concerning ways to hold 1953 production in balance with anticipated demand. The Department issues the minimum support price level for cotton of the 1953 crop at 90 percent of parity and repeats the prior warning by the Secretary against overproduction of cotton this year and its results.

February 27—The Secretary calls for an industry-wide corn conference of 38 men and asks for a similar conference on wheat by 42 men representing every segment of these industries, to consider the present situation and possible ways to stabilize prices and production. It was announced that dairy products would be supported at 90 percent of parity this year, on the assurance that leaders of the industry would at once begin work to reduce to a minimum government support purchases.

March 2—The Secretary announces lifting of restrictions on importation of livestock and animal or other products from Canada, and proclaims an end to the state of emergency announced March 10, 1952, because of the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Canada, which has been eradicated.

March 3—The Secretary calls a broadly representative agricultural finance advisory group to find out to what extent farm operations will be limited owing to finances, with special reference to the cattle industry. Their report is that few, if any loans, have been called due to declining prices and that loans to cattlemen are still considered very good risks.

March 4—The Secretary announces that CCC price supports will not be available on the 1953 crop of hay and pasture seeds, inasmuch as the apparent carry-over stocks plus additional supplies this year seem to be fully adequate, and because it might invite needless stock-piling and deterioration of reserves.

March 5—Appointment by the Secretary of a 9-man peanut advisory committee is announced, to confer and make recommendations on price support.

March 11—A new Foreign Agricultural Service was created in place of OFAR with Romeo E. Short as director.

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Sharing credit

IN DISCUSSING the pioneer work of Dr. Beverley T. Galloway who headed the Division of Vegetable Physiology that formed part of the original Bureau of Plant Industry, John A. Stevenson speaks of the group of enthusiastic associates he gathered about him.

According to Dr. Stevenson, an incident in the notable career of Dr. Galloway helped establish a precedent for extending due credit to research workers for their part in progressive experiments. This is what the record shows:

Previous to Dr. Galloway's time it was customary in the Department and in many parts of the scientific world for the chief of a unit to publish as his own work the work done by his associates, and without giving them credit. Galloway objected firmly to such a policy and as soon as he found himself in an administrative position he saw to it that due credit was given for all published material.

One of the associate chiefs was appalled at such a policy, and when Galloway refused to alter his policy, had him cited to the Commissioner of Agriculture on the grounds that such procedure cheapened the work and led to lack of confidence in it on the part of the public, who were not familiar with the names of the younger workers. A hearing was held and the new policy begun by Galloway was definitely approved, and has been the general plan of things since that time.

It also develops from the records of the time that women technical workers were few and their presence not encouraged. This, also, was changed by the attitude of Dr. Galloway, who placed Mrs. Flora M. Patterson in charge of the fungus herbarium in 1896 as assistant pathologist, who for more than 28 years devoted herself unceasingly to the building up of the collections. In other words, the strengthening of employee morale and esprit de corps was a primary contribution of Dr. Galloway along with his sound and noteworthy scientific services.

Dr. Hilbert honored

Dr. Guido E. Hilbert, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, is one of 11 persons selected this year for Rockefeller Public Service awards for outstanding career performance in Federal work. He is widely known for research in carbohydrate chemistry. He joined USDA in 1930 and helped set up four regional research laboratories, and later headed the one at Peoria, Ill. Dr. Hilbert will study next fall at the business school of Harvard University under the award scholarship.

Year of the locust

A QUICK reading of these few paragraphs may help prepare you to head off any wild neighborhood excitement that develops next spring when the "17-year locust" makes one of its infrequent appearances. So many of these odd little fellows come, and with such a rush and noisy to-do, that it is sometimes hard for even the seasoned veteran (he who remembers them from 1936, or perhaps 1919) to greet their debut with at least outward calm.

Actually, a brood of the 17-year locust, or periodical cicada (as they are correctly called) appears each year, but some broods have better withstood the effects of time, man, and natural enemies. Such a brood is scheduled in 1953. It will be prominent in many localities from Long Island to Illinois, southward to Georgia.

They'll come first to the South—late in April or early in May—and by late May will have appeared in many Northern States. They come by night, as if from nowhere, and one morning you arise to find vast numbers of the cicada's pupal cases on tree trunks, twigs, leaves—on almost every available support. There will be innumerable cicadas—milky white and red-eyed—a not undisturbing sight. The males appear first and in a few days the females join them. Their shells harden and take on a somber hue, but their eyes remain red.

The males soon become "vocal" and will render "song" after incessant song. Students of the 17-year cicada say that the insects are capable of four distinct sounds. There is one rather long-winded burring noise that they employ only when singing in groups. Another, termed "Pharoah's song," is intermittent, starting with a bur similar to the group sound, but ending after 4 or 5 seconds on a definitely lower tone. The third sound is described as a "soft purr" of one syllable, and the last is a loud harsh note of "primitive passion" uttered only when the males are surprised or frightened.

The periodical cicada is not of major economic importance. Only when the female has mated and prepares to lay her eggs does she sometimes get in a destructive lick against mankind. She gouges out pockets on twigs of trees, bushes, and shrubs in which to lay her eggs, and if she does enough gouging the twigs sometimes are broken. Female periodical cicadas have a decided preference for oak, hickory, apple, peach, and pear trees, and for grape vines. Most plants can cope with such destructive activity, but the young fruit trees and grape vines are sometimes seriously damaged by cicada egg-laying operations.

In early July, the adult cicadas begin quietly disappearing and by mid-month most of them are gone. At about this time, the eggs hatch. The newly emerged cicadas drop to the ground, burrow down to a succulent rootlet, and attach themselves; there to remain for 17 years.—Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

Tempera and trumpet

WHEN FORESTERS come to meetings at the Atlanta headquarters of the Southern Region of the U. S. Forest Service they are often entertained with music from the trumpet played by Harry Rossoll, who also "doubles in brass" as a cartoonist and poster artist for the Division of Information and Education. Mr. Rossoll draws Smokey Bear cartoons which appear in hundreds of newspapers and handles a wide variety of subject matter related to forest conservation in colored displays made with tempera and oil paint. He has been with the Region No. 8 office at Atlanta since 1937.

Perhaps his nearest step to wide renown was when he acted the part of "Pierre, the camp chef" and drew chalk-talk cartoons of Smokey Bear while the catchy song about the fire-preventin' bear was rendered by Eddy Arnold for a short film presentation. This little musical feature has become one of the most popular with juvenile audiences ever issued by Forest Service.

Mr. Rossoll is from Connecticut, and studied art at Norwich, Conn., and New York City. He taught drawing at a school in Mississippi and later went with the Mississippi Advertising Commission. He also led professional orchestras. His duties require frequent field trips to make sketches and consult with foresters and fire wardens in the Southern Region.

Recent appointments

Preston Richards, with more than 20 years' experience in agricultural service and program administration, and former director of the Dairy Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, is the newly appointed Assistant Administrator for Commodity Operations in PMA. Mr. Richards first joined USDA in 1930 as livestock specialist in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and he served in the Army Quartermaster Corps in World War II. His successor as director of the Dairy Branch of PMA is E. M. Norton, who first joined the Department in 1934 with the original Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and became assistant director of the Dairy Branch in April 1948.

Accent is on "better"

FARM MECHANIZATION has rushed ahead since the arrival of the internal combustion engine on the farm, stimulated very largely by the increase it produced in the output per man-day. More product per man-day has been the thing, but times have changed and the great surpluses of good farm land have disappeared. In other words, population is catching up with the supply of farm land—at least on the basis of oldtime ways of cropping.

What this situation means to the agricultural engineers, E. G. McKibben, Director of Agricultural Engineering Research, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agrictultural Engineering, brought out at the Georgia Farm Mechanization Conference, Athens, early in February. Said McKibben:

Because of this probable increase in the ratio of population to land, there seems little doubt that we can expect greater emphasis on increased production per acre. The following are some of the implications for farm mechanization: (1) Any form of mechanization which tends to reduce production per acre will be looked on with ever increasing disfavor. (2) There will be an increased demand for the more effective application of chemicals to control crop and animal responses, weeds, plant and animal pests and diseases, soil fertility, and physical condition. (3) There will probably be need for equipment to effectively apply electric energy for some of the same purposes. (4) There will be increased support for machines or methods which will increase either the quantity of crop per acre or quality of product. (5) There will be increased interest in the agricultural utilization of crop residues for feed and bedding. In other words, from now on we will need to place increasing emphasis on the "better" phase of our motto of "bigger and better."

Strong housing need

Our Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics points to several factors apt to maintain a firm demand during the coming year for housing. In a recent publication they cited the view of Walter W. Schneider, Bureau of Labor Statistics, that the million or more marriages expected in 1953 will create much pressure for space; continuing high employment levels mean more demand for separate housing by unmarried women; rising birth rates suggest that many families with new babies will be hunting for single-family houses, while the defense activity causes great shifts in populations who must be able to find living accommodations.

Williams in ACP post

Donald A. Williams, Assistant Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, is the new Chief of the Agricultural Conservation Program office which was formerly administered as part of the Production and Marketing Administration. He is a graduate in engineering at South Dakota State College and has been in charge of technical operations of SCS since 1951. He entered Federal service in 1935 and has had field experience in irrigation and water conservation in several Western States, and served as assistant regional director for SCS in the Pacific Coast area.

Readers' reminders

Color grading of eggs

Because color grading of eggs is profitable in markets where color preferences rule the trade, a new grading machine with "electric eyes" has been devised by engineers and poultry specialists at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md. More details may be had by asking *USDA* editor for No. 358.

Cow papers

The Bureau of Dairy Industry has a couple of new papers on dairy cows. Both are dated January 1953, with Ralph Hodgson, Assistant Chief, as author. One on feeding the modern dairy cow is BDI-INF 146; and the other relating to pasture improvement is BDI-INF 147. Apply direct to BDI's information office.

"Knotty" problems

Agriculture Handbook No. 52 by Ellis Williams, economist, with Forest Service, tells the small forest tract owner in plain language how to meet the income tax aspects of his operations. Get copies from Inquiries and Distribution Service, Office of Information.

Veteran benefits

A new fact sheet designed to give general information about most Federal benefits that Congress provides for veterans has been distributed by the Information Service, Veterans' Administration here. It's just a key or index to existing benefits of all kinds enjoyed by veterans and their survivors, with references to the various agencies who administer them. *USDA* has no copies.

Ag economics story

Agricultural economics as a scientific discipline is hardly 50 years old, yet today agricultural economists are found in considerable profusion everywhere—in educational, commercial, and regulatory agencies both inside and outside of the Government. A new book on the subject is "The Story of Agricultural Economics in the United States," by Henry C. and Anne Dewees Taylor, Iowa State College Press, Ames, Iowa, 1,121 pages, 1952, $10 a copy. This book was reviewed by O. V. Wells, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in the January 1953 issue of "Agricultural Economic Research."

Flowering dogwood

Curtis May, Division of Forest Pathology, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, is author of a 4-page circular dated December 1952, entitled "Dogwood Diseases in the East." It is a good reference for all growers of *Cornus florida*, popular flowering species which normally is quite free of serious diseases. Transplanting and heat and drought injury are also discussed.

Cheese quota imports

The Department has a statement covering the authorized amount of specified types of cheese that is permitted entry to this country under the Defense Food Order No. 3 from July 1, 1952, through June 30, 1953. These quota restrictions are valid through next June 30. For a full statement of allowed importations by countries of origin, ask *USDA* editor for No. 219.

That "career" book

Agriculture Handbook No. 45 is proving popular. It brings together much basic material about the inside work and duties of various agencies in the Department, with an eye toward attracting high grade employees and keeping them. The latest edition was printed in August, 52 pages illustrated. Personnel officers should have copies for you.

Wheelbarrow sprayer

Circular No. ET–305 of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine describes a new wheelbarrow type sprayer that uses compresed carbon dioxide as a source of pressure. It was designed and built at Salt River Valley, Ariz., by E. A. Taylor and Orin A. Hills. It is mainly intended for truck crop and garden pest control experiments.

Useful teamwork

Examples of cooperation in sharing facilities by USDA agencies are numerous. One recent exemple is in Denver, where research people in the Bureau of Animal Industry are using IBM machines in the office of the Farmers Home Administration to tabulate data from cattle breeding tests in some 20 States. Other cases like this would be welcome.

Propose puzzlers

Eighteen questions pointing out the most striking shortages we see today in our agricultural knowledge were given by the Agricultural Research Policy Committee who met at Washington, D. C. on February 20. While none of their "posers" are exactly new, they embody the large field of unsolved problems facing combined State-Federal commercial farm research workers. The brief summary is No. 421, which may be had from the editor of *USDA*.

File beneficiary

Have you filed a designated beneficiary to get your unpaid Federal compensation due at time of death? It is advisable to do this. Any employee may name any person or persons as beneficiary by executing and filing Standard Form No. 1152; and prior beneficiaries may also be cancelled or revoked by filing another such form. Forms may be secured from your personnel office. Those who filed beneficiaries some time ago might check now to see if they are still properly designated.

Illness of elms

Dutch elm disease caused by a fungus and elm phloem necrosis of virus origin are the worst destructive elm ailments in the country. The European elm bark beetle carries the former, while a leafhopper spreads phloem necrosis, although sometimes in close plantings both diseases spread through root grafts. Ask for Leaflet No. 329 from Publications Distribution Unit, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. It gives the practical controls.

Local farmers' markets

To determine under what conditions shipping point markets for fruits and vegetables are most apt to succeed or fail, a study was made by two USDA offices to form the conclusions given in Marketing Research Report No. 17. The Marketing and Facilities Research Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration and the Cooperative Research and Service Division, Farm Credit Administration, did the work involved. It's Part III of the series of reports on farmers' produce markets in the United States. For your copy, apply to Office of Information Services, PMA.

Farm housing preferences

A newly published report covers results from four Regions of the Nation surveyed by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics in cooperation with 34 State experiment stations in the matter of rural household activities and building preferences. It presents useful data for farmers, engineers, architects and home economists in planning space and functional aspects of farm houses. "Housing Needs and Preferences of Farm Families" is listed as AIB–96, which may be had by writing to Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

Brief and choice

Honor awards list rises

Department agencies have set a new record for the number of individuals nominated for the annual Honor Awards ceremony in May. Selection committee have been named.

Easter sunrise service

Our readers are invited by Maj. Gen. Paul H. Streit, commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, to worship with the patients and duty personnel at the twenty-sixth annual outdoor Easter sunrise service there on April 5. Watch newspapers for exact hour of the ceremony.

Broadhead handles fair employment

D. K. Broadhead, Executive Assistant to the Secretary, has been designated by Secretary Benson as Fair Employment Officer for the Department. He will be responsible to the Secretary for an effective program to insure that fair employment policies are fully observed in all personnel actions. The head of each Department agency is named as a Deputy Fair Employment Officer to work with Mr. Broadhead.

USDA local NFFE officers

Agriculture Branch of Local No. 2 of the National Federation of Federal Employees named officers on February 10. Dayton S. Ward, Rural Electrification Administration is president; C. R. Briggs, Production and Marketing Administration, Emily Clark, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and Elmer Thompson, Office of Information, are vice presidents; and Margaret C. Nixon, PMA, is secretary. There are 1,100 chapters of NFFE.

Ravagers and destroyers

In a recent statement about defense against insects and plant diseases, G. J. Haeussler and Paul R. Miller, USDA insect and plant disease workers, state that insects cause at least 4 billion dollars damage and plant maladies take a toll of 2½ billions of dollars a year in this country alone. More than 80,000 kinds of insects and some 25,000 diseases are listed as plant enemies in North America.

Retirement of Mr. Hunter

On February 25, 1953, employees of the Office of the Solicitor, together with Karl D. Loos, the present Solicitor, met in the Jefferson Auditorium to pay homage to W. Carroll Hunter, the former Solicitor, who retired on January 22, 1953. Gifts of a wrist watch and a 2-suiter traveling bag were made to Mr. Hunter on behalf of the members of "Sol" in Washington and the field and other friends in the Department. Mr. Hunter entered USDA in September 1933, became Assistant Solicitor (later Associate Solicitor) in charge of litigation and Special Assistant to the Attorney General in July 1942. He was named Solicitor in April 1946 upon the resignation of Robert H. Shields.

Ewing promoted

K. P. Ewing, employed for more than 32 years in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, is the new head of the Division of Insects Affecting Cotton and Other Fiber Plants. He succeeds R. W. Harned who has headed this division since 1931 and who continues as staff assistant and consultant to the Bureau Chief in respect to cotton insect control. Since he became associated with the Bureau in 1920, Mr. Ewing has made many contributions to the yield and quality of cotton through better insect control methods, and in 1939 he was put in charge of the new cotton insect research laboratory at Waco, Tex. In 1950 he was named the Texas "Man of the Year" by Progressive Farmer for outstanding service to agriculture.

"Waisted" without waste

Plant Quarantine Inspector C. P. Trotter on the Laredo, Tex., border, found a Mexican with a suspiciously bulging waistline one day last year and asked for a search by the Customs officer. The "take" consisted of an eight-compartment belt stuffed with seeds of pumpkin, cornflower, avocado, mango, mamey, and medicinal herbs, 2 mangoes, and 6 peaches.

Marketing advances

At the end of World War II, less than 5 percent of the Federal agricultural research program was devoted to marketing. With the added support to this work that came from the Agricultural Marketing Act, the percentage was raised to 12 percent in the next 5 years. This percentage has receded, however, since the advent of the mobilization program.

Motion pictures standby

Operation of the USDA Motion Pictures Service in the Office of Information has been placed on a standby basis, owing to the fact that film production is run on a reimbursable basis, resulting in an operating loss and the cancellation of many orders from other Government agencies. The distribution and information functions are not affected.

Helicopter spraying

Using newly designed aerial spray equipment developed by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and USDA's Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. helicopters can now furnish spray services for forest protection which can be had with no other known type of air or ground spray machinery. Under test, it has put hormone sprays on orchards and herbicides on weed growths and against certain forest and cranberry bog insects.

He conquered "curly top"

Eubanks Carsner, who has been a pioneer plant pathologist in breeding sugar beets resistant to curly top virus disease during 35 years of Department service, retired on December 31. With the assistance of many Department coworkers and several State experiment stations, Dr. Carsner has had a big part in the development of successive improved varieties of sugar beets. The Agricultural Research Administration estimated that the cost of curly top research for 22 years was $750,000—and that the added value to the beet industry through higher yields on acreages subject to severe attack amounts to fully $10,000,000 a year. Like many retired USDA scientists, Dr. Carsner will serve the Government and the farmers as a collaborator without pay. He will live at the scene of his research for 33 years—Riverside, Calif.

Filling vacancies

The Office of Personnel has distributed instructions to heads of all agencies in the USDA in accordance with Secretary's Memorandum No. 1322 of February 5, 1953, relative to filling vacancies. It says that when a vacancy occurs the agency shall give serious thought as to whether the position need be filled at all, or the work can be eliminated, dispersed, or absorbed by other employees. If it is found that the vacancy should be filled and it cannot be filled from within the agency, a request for authority to fill the position from outside the agency must be submitted to Pers for approval by the Secretary. In case the request is approved, first consideration must be given to filling the position from other USDA agencies before going outside for help. Only if the qualified person to fill the vacancy cannot be located by Pers within the USDA may permission be granted to seek help elsewhere.

USDA dairy tests

At least three recent innovations in dairy manufactures largely arising from experiments in the Bureau of Dairy Industry will be included in the deliberations of the American Dairy Science Association at its next meeting in June at Madison, Wis. They are the Lactometer test for measuring solids-not-fat in milk, the new detergent butterfat test, and the relation of fat content to keeping quality of dried milk.

Retirees organize

Through the USDA Welfare and Recreation Association, an Association of Retired Employees was planned as a project for 1953. There is a growing need for planning in advance for retirement. Several successful luncheon meetings held in 1952 prompted the sponsors to continue this activity. A special bookshelf on retirement was set up with the cooperation of the USDA Library.

Greensman Grau quits

Dr. Fred V. Grau, director of the U. S. Golf Association Green Section, with offices and research plots at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., has resigned. Before developing the turf program for the association, Dr. Grau did extension work in turf and grasslands at the Pennsylvania State College for about 10 years. In resigning, Dr. Grau expresses appreciation to his friends and coworkers in the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases and elsewhere for their cooperation. He expects to continue in some phase of this work.

We all make 'em

Milton Mangum, Agricultural Conservation Programs, points out an error in our February 11 issue. The right figures for the 1951 lime distribution are 21,452,070 tons to 746,039 farms. The figures previously given were merely for that portion wherein advances were made to aid farmers in obtaining conservation materials and services.

Holm succeeds Walster

Dr. Glenn C. Holm, member of the North Dakota Agricultural College veterinary department since 1949, is the new dean of agriculture and director of the State experiment station, effective July 1. He succeeds Dr. H. L. Walster who reaches compulsory retirement this spring, and who came to the North Dakota institution from Wisconsin as an agronomist in 1918. He has been dean and director there since 1934 and is a recognized authority on soils and agronomy.

Fat acidity test

As an objective index to show the degree of soundness in grain, the now widely used fat acidity test was developed by the Grain Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. It has been adopted as the official test by the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists. Freshly harvested grains in good condition have a fat acidity rating of less than 20. Badly injured wheat may have fat acidity values of more than 100 and some corn and a few other grains in bad condition have more than 200.

Koenig with Davis

Nathan Koenig, who served in the Office of the Secretary since 1945, and who had been previously associated with USDA in various fields from 1933 through 1943, is now assistant to John H. Davis, president of the Commodity Credit Corporation, and director of commodity marketing and adjustment. Mr. Koenig has made special studies of agriculture in different parts of the world while working in the Office of the Secretary, and he directed the development of a comprehensive agricultural program for Puerto Rico. A printed report on this subject is in process of publication by the Department.

Changes in BAI

Dr. J. R. Gorham succeeds Dr. G. C. McGinnis as official in charge of the Fur Animal Research Laboratory, State College, Pullman, Wash. Dr. E. L. Peck succeeds Dr. G. H. Ehlers (retired) as inspector in charge at Sioux City, Iowa.

Kelley to Beltsville

Dr. Omer J. Kelley, for more than 5 years regional director of Soil Management and Irrigation Agriculture for the Department at Colorado A&M College, is the new head of the Division of Soil Management, Irrigation, and Dry Land Regions, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

Miller leaves CEA

Walter L. Miller, executive officer of the Commodity Exchange Authority, has retired after 37 years service with USDA. During his career he has served with the naval attache's office in the American Embassy at London, as chief of the Foreign Service Bureau of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and the Department's Office of Budget and Finance. His successor is Daniel A. Currie, who has been with Office of Personnel for the past 10 years.

Water loans

Farmers Home Administration says that in 1952 some 6,000 families in 17 Western States were using individual loans to construct or repair wells, ponds, ditches, windmills, and such water facilities. Many others were aided by membership in 169 associations and water companies that have loans to build or rehabilitate major installations serving rural people. One-fourth of the $5,000,000 appropriated for water loans was advanced to groups, a larger proportion than ever.

Sky film sales

During the year, the Department continued to utilize aerial photographs as an important aid in carrying out its functions relating to research, conservation, regulatory work, and agricultural adjustment. Extensive sales of these aerial photographs were made under legislative authority (7 U. S. C. 1387) to farmers and governmental agencies. During the year, Office of Plant and Operations approved 38 aerial photographic survey projects for a total of 322,288 square miles; 2 topographic mapping projects for a total of 14,629 square miles; and 4 planimetric projects for a total of 11,018 square miles.

Field crops research chief

Dr. Martin G. Weiss, a native of Iowa, who joined USDA as a junior geneticist in May 1936, has been named director of field crops research in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. He succeeds Dr. W. M. Myers, now in charge of the agronomy and plant genetics work at the University of Minnesota. Soybean breeding and improvement work in Iowa and at the U. S. Regional Soybean Laboratory at Peoria, Ill. have been features of Mr. Weiss's career with USDA. He served in the European theater during World War II and ranks as colonel in the Air Force. He has been soybean project leader for PISAE since 1950.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR APRIL 8, 1953

Wider horizons

A NEW Foreign Agricultural Service was created within the Department of Agriculture. It replaces the former Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Secretary Benson named Romeo E. Short as director. In contrast to OFAR, which was a staff office of the Secretary, the new FAS occupies a major position in the Department's recently established six functional groups: Research, Extension, and Land Use, Commodity Marketing and Adjustment, Foreign Agricultural Service, Agricultural Credit Services, Departmental Administration, Office of the Solicitor.

Establishment of the new FAS gives added weight and prestige to the Department's role in foreign agricultural affairs. The fact that Mr. Short, serving on the Secretary's staff, will give full time and attention to foreign agricultural affairs is an indication of Secretary Benson's strong interest in such matters.

The Department is very much aware that American agricultural exports slipped back 15 percent during 1952, and as a first order of business will strengthen the work in developing foreign markets. This will be done by more complete coordination of the work of all USDA and other Governmental representatives that are working abroad. FAS expects to maintain closer working relations with the 75 U.S. agricultural attachés and officers who report regularly from some 50 foreign countries.

Also, FAS will help the Department give stronger leadership in international cooperation as it involves agriculture. This includes the technical cooperation work overseas and the foreign visitor training program in the U.S. (in both of which the Land-Grant colleges and universities are leading participants), U.S. participation in FAO, and international trade policies and program affecting U.S. Agriculture.

Chemurgic conquests

CHEMICAL MARVELS in adaptation, transformation, and conservation of farm crops and byproducts are a routine end result at the laboratories of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. At the March meeting of the National Chemurgic Council at St. Louis, Mo., representatives of Bureau's information staff presented graphic colored displays and object lessons of the more recent achievements.

More efficient development of Vitamin B_{12} through the Bureau's newly discovered micro-organism from Japanese soil, and which is now used by firms that manufacture 25 percent of the vitamins used in stock feed, is one example. Other items noted in the display are book paper made from sugarcane bagasse, starch sponge for surgeons, fertilizer from waste feathers, new orange juice powder, frozen apple juice concentrate, an improved dried egg powder, high-flavored maple syrup, a new body-conforming cotton bandage, and oil and wax products from rice bran.

Dextran made by certain bacterial action on cane sugar produces a blood plasma extender for emergency shock treatment. Modified inedible beef and hog fats make up into useful plasticizers, from which garden hose, upholstery materials and wall coverings are made. Another display featured a promising domestic source for tannin material that may soon reduce our dependence upon imported materials. This is the variety of dock native to desert tracts, known as "canaigre." This "suit-case" show was a popular number on the program as given by Frank L. Teuton, information officer, using gadgets galore.

Document No. 2 revised

Authorities in the Office of the Solicitor have revised and brought up to date the notations in Document No. 2, which gives abridged laws relating to the Department. Copies are obtainable while the supply lasts from the editorial office of USDA.

Recording history

AGRICULTURAL HISTORY Society has recently announced the transfer of the editorship of its quarterly, *Agricultural History*, from the Department to the University of Wisconsin. Inaugurated in 1927, the journal was edited from that year to 1931 by O. C. Stine, formerly of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Stine was succeeded as editor by Everett E. Edwards of the same bureau, who served until his death last year. The new editor is Vernon Carstensen of Wisconsin's History Department.

The Society was founded in 1919 to "stimulate interest in, promote the study of, and facilitate research and publication on the history of agriculture." The impetus for the Society came from within the Department and among its charter members were Rodney H. True, G. N. Collins, G. K. Holmes, A. C. True, Lyman Carrier, O. C. Stine, W. W. Stockberger, C. W. Warburton, Clariber R. Barnett, Mary G. Lacy, L. O. Howard, W. E. Safford, W. A. Taylor, and others of USDA fame. Joining with them were historians, economists, botanists, and others from the state colleges and experiment stations. Present-day membership rolls show the same wide diversity of interests among members. Included are scientists, farmers, economists, historians, editors of farm journals, extension leaders, and others interested in agricultural history from all parts of the country.

The Society holds an annual meeting, in addition to joining with the American Historical Association and other learned societies in sponsoring sessions at which papers are read. Its main activity, however, is the publication of *Agricultural History*. The only journal of its type, it is the major medium for articles on the history of agriculture in all its phases and the clearinghouse for information of interest and value to workers in the field. The costs of printing and mailing the journal are paid entirely from membership and subscription fees.

The Society plans to maintain close ties with the Department and welcomes contributions to the journal from Department employees. It also welcomes new members. The Secretary-Treasurer, Charles A. Burmeister, long a member of the Department's staff until his retirement last year, maintains the Society's records and conducts Society business in Room 3906, South Building.

Donate Blood and Save a Life

247699°—53

Benefits by barriers

PLANT QUARANTINES against the entry of dangerous pests and diseases have been in effect in the United States for 40 years, and are officially in force in every other country in the world except two—Siam and the Republic of Honduras. According to Ralph W. Sherman, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, these restrictions on imported plant materials vary from the extra complex regulations of Mozambique to the relatively simple ones of the Chinese Nationals on Formosa.

Besides the primary benefit derived from sound plant quarantines, it is pointed out that there are some incidental benefits besides which are well known to growers and inspectors, but unfamiliar to the public. To skim through just a few of the helps that arise from imposing certain treatments and preparatory handling of materials to fulfill quarantine safeguards indicate their fringe benefits clearly.

One way of obtaining white-fringed beetle certification in the Southeast is to apply DDT to the growing area. This not only kills the beetles but destroys many other harmful insects in the soil and makes higher yields possible. Vapor-heat sterilization is required to be applied to sound citrus fruit only for shipment under the quarantine rules for killing eggs and larvae of the fruit fly. Such fruit that is bruised or thorn-pricked at once turns brown under the treatment so that it may be culled out by graders, whereas unsterilized fruit thus injured is not usually detected at that time. This cuts the loss from spoilage in transit and in stores.

Improved methods for the cold treatment of imported applies, pears, plums, and grapes have led to the reduction of in-transit spoilage and a much better quality of sound fruit for the American market. In protecting against gypsy moths, methyl bromide treatment for Christmas trees was begun in October 1942. From this quarantine regulation has come less needle drop and longer retention of the natural green color, especially with fir trees from the New England States.

A large eastern wholesale plant grower treats his potted plants with methyl dibromide-chlordane dip as an authorized way to get certification for shipping under the Japanese beetle quarantine rules. At a minute fraction of a cent in cost, this grower says that this dip kills certain root-injuring insects as well as all stages of the Jap beetle, and keeps the plants moist for shipment. Sales are easier to make and volume is increased thereby.

And finally, an order by the New York State officials compels growers of Long Island potatoes to use paper bags in marketing stocks grown in golden nematode infested zones. Now most of the growers there and elsewhere have abandoned the 100-pound burlap bag in favor of the paper container in 10-, 15-, and 50-pound sizes.

Huge amounts of plants and plant materials enter this country even with a rigid quarantine on some imports. In 1951 there were 500 million bulbs and nearly 4,500,000 nursery and greenhouse items imported at a value above $10,000,000. More than 104 million pounds of unmanufactured cotton and 272 million pounds of potatoes came through our ports. Inspectors, however, found and intercepted 7,700 hitch-hiking foreign insects and plant diseases of a dangerous nature.

Acre loss abated

BETTER STEWARDS of the land they love, live, and work on, is one way to describe the owners and operators of more than 4,948,000 farms comprising about 79 percent of all the land in farms and ranches within the continental United States now enrolled in soil conservation districts. Including the Caribbean area, Hawaii, and Alaska, the sum total of soil conservation districts is 2,493. On 98 percent of the districts' combined acreage of 1,369,698,000 acres the Department of Agriculture has basic memorandums of agreement signed and in force with districts including 4,976,000 farms.

Texas has 164 districts with 156,519,000 acres—the biggest here as it always is in the geographies. Montana has nearly 80 million acres, New Mexico has over 55 million acres, Kansas boasts 52 million acres, while Nebraska and Nevada tie with over 48 million acres enrolled. Utah is next with more than 46 million acres and North Dakota can claim over 43 million acres in these organized soil conserving districts.

Advisers and cooperators to the farmers on these land-saving areas are the soil conservationists, research men and engineers of the Soil Conservation Service, with assistance at times from Forest Service, ACP committeemen and the land-grant college. More and more are the farmers themselves becoming more or less expert in detecting and remedying the soil failures and topsoil losses which occur as a blow to the welfare of the country as a whole. A few of the organized districts are devoted strictly to wind erosion control, grass conservation, and irrigation, but the majority of them are concerned broadly with soil improvement and land-use matters.

Eleven States are completely covered in farm land area with conservation districts. Included with Alabama—first to be fully covered—are South Carolina, Delaware, Iowa, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Nebraska and Mississippi. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are also complete. Yet soil workers realize that the job is merely begun—although they expect to do it faster by means of such organized cooperation.

Todd of tall timbers

ARMED WITH a speed graphic or an Eastman bantam special kodak, Daniel O. Todd has traveled through every forest in Region 8 of the U. S. Forest Service, making black-and-white and color slides and transparencies for loan purposes or to illustrate lectures and bulletins. Mr. Todd's headquarters are at Atlanta, Ga., where he presides over the visual collection of about 5,000 slides maintained in the FS Division of Information and Education.

"Dan" Todd came up through the ranks the hard way. He was a forest ranger successively at Ouachita, Ark., Ozark Mountain, Ark., and the Mississippi National Forest. Born and raised in Arkansas, Mr. Todd knows the southern forests well and spends fully half his time afield getting fresh pictures to illustrate culture and propagation, forest management, fire protection, flood control, and road and bridge construction.

In the disastrous forest fire season of 1952 he made veritable "hot shots" of burning tracts in the Cherokee Forest in Tennessee, and the forest blaze at Ocala, Fla. He often takes pictures of the woodworking industries of the South, having one of the best collections of this kind on record.

Mr. Todd has a Masters Degree in journalism at the University of Iowa, taught English and writing at Wentworth Military Academy, Lexington, Mo., and spent 4 years as a public information officer for the U. S. Air Force at Barksdale Field, La., and Drew Field, Tampa, Fla.

Oak wilt surveys

DESTRUCTIVE OAK wilt disease has been found in 18 States. Losses from it would be tremendous should the disease spread over the more valuable oak forests of the Ozarks, the lower Mississippi valley, and the East—where the expense of a thorough suppression effort would be more justifiable than in the areas of less valuable oak stands where it has been present for some time.

Some 35 species of oak have been found to be susceptible to oak wilt through natural infections or laboratory tests, and none are known to be immune to it, although it kills faster in the red than in the white oak group. Surveys of its extent and spread and research as to cause and cure of this malady are performed by the Division of Forest Pathology, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering in cooperation with various State agencies.

There is some encouragement that it can be controlled. Although oak wilt is widespread, it is not yet out of control in either the Ozarks or the East. The disease spreads great distances but apparently lacks an efficient means by which to build up numerous infections rapidly. Numerous States have already begun a vigorous effort to survey the extent of oak wilt and find practical means for its suppression.

Recommended control plans are outlined by Marvin E. Fowler and associates in the Division of Forest Pathology. Wilt-infected trees should be cut down. Most of the trees should be burned, and if any lumber is cut from the trunk, the bark and outer wood removed in slabs should also be burned. Lumber from which the bark and slab wood is removed is not considered a hazard for the spread of oak wilt.

The zone under the bark of the infected oaks is the place where the fungus fruits and forms mats or pads. This ability of the fungus to fruit beneath the bark makes it unwise to use oak-wilted trees with the bark on them for fence posts, mine props, railroad ties, or other products that might serve to perpetuate the wilt disease.

Among the States where oak wilt control programs are either under way or being seriously studied and considered are Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Kansas, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. Minnesota is testing control measures on an experimental basis in three sections involving about 5,000 acres of heavily infected oak forests. Virginia destroyed the only known oak-wilted tree within its borders in 1951. Missouri has also instituted an extensive oak wilt suppression test.

Knowledge of the location of diseased trees is vital to success in future campaigns for arresting its spread—although it is doubtful if all wilted trees can be found, even by using airplanes for scouting, it is pointed out. This year the Federal Government and various States will continue cooperative surveys and control efforts. Specimens collected from suspected areas of infection should be sent to your own State Pathologist or State Agricultural Experiment Station.

Readers' reminders

Bad blood for bugs

In exploratory studies the scientists of USDA find they can kill cattle grubs by injecting aldrin, dieldrin, and lindane into bodies of cattle, but they emphasize that this method as a practical means of insect control is not a finished recommendation. For all the main points they make in the trials, ask *USDA* editor for No. 453.

Plastics from pigs

Vinyl plastic products made from the inedible fats of hogs and cows, as well as from soybeans, afford new byproducts uses for farm commodities. Work done by the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry on this method of processing fats and oils for use as plasticizers is described briefly in No. 503, which you may get from the editor of *USDA*.

More woe for weeds

Scientists working on improved chemical weed-killing agents used for pre-emergence sprays to stop weed growth will find some professional hints and progress notes by writing to *USDA* editor for No. 516. It gives data from tests by Dr. W. C. Shaw and C. R. Swanson of Plant Industry Station.

Maize munitions

Corn hybrids and varieties vary in their tolerance for 2,4–D sprays to check weed growth, but the differences are not significant at rates below one-half pound an acre, says Dr. Roy L. Lovvorn, USDA weed research specialist. Inbreds and corn from single-cross seed are more susceptible to spray damage than most hybrids. Some suggestions on this are carried in No. 478, obtainable from *USDA* editor.

Calf club circular

"Your 4–H Beef Calf" is a neat 16-page circular illustrated by Mrs. Elsie Svaasand and written by W. E. Flint, extension animal husbandman at the New Mexico A&M College. It's sound material, well presented.

Farm safety

"Farm to live and live to farm" is the slogan for the 1953 farm safety campaign effort. The USDA farm safety fact sheet of four pages is ready for distribution through the usual channels, after considerable spade work by a special committee in cooperation with the National Safety Council and the Office of Information. The dates for "farm safety week" are July 19–25. Secretary Benson and President Eisenhower issued statements on farm safety observance which are distributed with the fact sheet.

Brief and choice

Good return

Stockholders in 78 production credit associations in 28 States and Puerto Rico got their short-term credit cooperatively and in addition received $740,000 in dividends and patronage refunds in 1952, says the Farm Credit Administration. These associations paying dividends and patronage refunds are among the 280 PCA's completely farmer-owned.

Raisin diet

Food Distribution Branch of Production and Marketing Administration is conducting a special plentiful foods merchandising effort in behalf of raisin consumption. Recipes and menus with raisins are featured for the week of May 10–16. Whet your appetite to handle a share of the "current" crop of 25,000 extra tons!

4–H club reminders

The main calendar of 4–H club events for 1953 include: 4–H Sunday, May 10; Regional 4–H club camp, June 8–15; national encampment, June 17–24; achievement day, November 14; 4–H congress, Chicago, November 29–December 3. Circular PA–214 by the Federal Extension Service gives handy hints on ways to observe such important dates, written by Gertrude Warren, retired.

Leaders in livestock

Receipts of livestock at public markets in order of their volume for 1952 has been issued by Livestock Branch of Production and Marketing Administration. Two toppers in cattle were Chicago and Omaha; in calves, Milwaukee and South St. Paul; in hogs, Chicago and St. Louis; in sheep and lambs, Denver, Colo., and Ogden, Utah; in horses and mules, North Salt Lake and Fort Smith, Ark.

Farm population note

The population living on United States farms numbered 24,819,000 in April 1952, says the cooperative report by the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. For April 1950 the (revised) population figure on farms is 25,058,000. This causes the estimate of farm population to be 15.9 percent of the total United States population as of April 1952. In April 1950 it was 16.6 percent. Males numbered 12,719,000 and females 12,100,000 according to the latest 1952 estimate. Children under 14 years totaled 8,120,000, and all persons 14 years and over were 16,699,000 on our farms.

Honor awards committees

Members of the official selection committees who are considering the nominations made for Distinguished Service and Superior Service awards this year are: Distinguished Service: Richard D. Aplin, director, Departmental Administration; John Bird, associate editor of Country Gentleman, Philadelphia; Dr. P. V. Cardon, director, USDA Graduate School; Roger B. Corbett, National Association of Food Chains; Russell I. Thackrey, Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. Superior Service: C. M. Ferguson, director of Extension Service; James A. Keane, State director, Farmers Home Administration, Bozeman, Mont.; A. E. McClymonds, regional director of Soil Conservation Service, Lincoln, Nebr.; Sterling R. Newell, assistant chief, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Ruth O'Brien, assistant chief, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics; Harry C. Trelogan, assistant administrator, Agricultural Research Administration; T. Roy Reid, director of personnel, belongs to both committees.

Pidgeon heads USDA club

Rezin E. Pidgeon, Forest Service's Division of Engineering, is the new head of the Atlanta USDA club. He succeeds William J. Foster of the Solicitor's Office. Directors of the Atlanta Club are C. A. Connaughton, FS; R. L. Vansant, FHA; J. M. Simmons, PMA; W. J. Foster, Sol; Herbert D. Rorex, PMA; S. D. Truitt, Ext; Frank Albert, FS; and David Slappey, FHA.

Forest station safety

The National Safety Council's 1953 certificates of commendation for the time worked without a disabling injury have been awarded to Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station, the Rocky Mountain Experiment Station, the Southeastern Experiment Station, and a special award to the Allegheny National Forest of Pennsylvania—6 years and 4⅓ months without a lost-time accident. The latter is an all-time injury-free period among our national forests.

Myers retired with honors

Roy W. Myers, longest tenure employee of the Bureau of Dairy Industry, has retired with special honors for 40 years of creditable service. In the ceremony, Dr. O. E. Reed pointed to the excellent record of Mr. Myers, with only 5 days sick leave despite his 67 years. Assistant Secretary Coke followed Dr. Reed, with special praise to the retiree for his fine sense of duty. Suitable gifts from fellow employees marked the event.

Extension excerpts

Two new recruits have joined the Extension Service Division of 4–H Clubs and YMW programs. They are Fern Shipley, former associate supervisor of youth work in Utah, and C. C. Lang, Ohio State's 4–H club leader. Norman Tucker, famous in the Extension Service for his contacts with State Extension officers, has begun his 41st year with USDA with the congratulations of all who have profited by his acquaintance.

Messenger exhibit

During the week of March 16, two messengers of the Department placed an exhibit entitled "The New Vision" in the welfare showcase in the South Building. Earle Caldwell, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, and John H. Harris, Office of Information, said their exhibit was primarily designed to stimulate the feeling of relaxation.

Iraq locust article

The April 1953 number of National Geographic Magazine has a story about the battle against the hordes of desert locusts in Iraq. It includes pictures of operations there with United States technical aid under point 4, showing Lewis H. Rohrbaugh, director of agriculture under that program, as well as William Mabee, Nevada entomologist. Dr. Rohrbaugh formerly directed the USDA Graduate School.

Ellis and wife killed

Mr. and Mrs. Don Carlos Ellis were killed in an automobile accident on the Pennsylvania turnpike on the afternoon of March 15. Mr. Ellis served USDA in three periods. From 1909–17 he was with Forest Service educational work; from 1917 through 1920 he was assistant in charge of motion pictures in the Division of Publications; and between 1944 and 1946, Mr. Ellis was again associated with films in the Office of Information. At the time of his death he was connected with the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in the Defense Department.

Farm newspapermen coming

For the dates April 23–25 special programs and demonstrations will be staged in USDA on behalf of members of a new journalistic organization—the Newspaper Farm Editors Association. J. S. Russell, Des Moines Register and Tribune, is president, and Richard Orr, Chicago Tribune, is secretary.

To boom beef

The Livestock Advisory Committee named by Secretary Benson has asked for a stepped-up effort of Departmental promotion, through press, radio, and television to acquaint the public with the plentiful supply and relatively low prices of beef, and asked that the volume of beef used in the school lunch program be increased, and called for expanded research on new uses for tallow, animal fats, and hides.

Well qualified

Philip Young, new chairman of the U.S. Civil Service Commission, spent 10 years in the Federal service from 1934 to 1944. He began his Government work in the Securities and Exchange Commission as an analyst, having passed a regular civil-service examination to get the job. "In these perilous times, the future of our Government depends on how efficiently it can be operated. That in turn depends on the work performance of the employees we have. That's why we need to strengthen civil service wherever possible to make it a more effective force for better management," Mr. Young has stated.

Consolidations suspended

Secretary Benson has issued Memorandum No. 1278, Supplement No. 1, to the effect that any work on further consolidation of county and State offices of the Department shall be suspended. Where committments already made are such as to make suspension difficult, the matter must be brought to the attention of Assistant Secretary Coke. The reason given for this action is that sometimes higher rental costs may tend to increase, rather than decrease, the total expenses, and that consolidations may interfere with efforts to bring about decentralization of USDA functions.

Four researchers honored

Four research workers at the Southern Regional Research Laboratory have received citations for development of "tailor made" fats for use in the food industry as a coating material to seal in flavor and moisture and keep out molds and bacteria. The Glycerine Producers Association awarded certificates and cash prizes for this notable work to Reuben O. Feuge, Miss Audrey T. Gros, Norman V. Lovegren, and Earl J. Vicknair. Before final recommendations are made, the use of this coating material on foods is being further tested at the Western Regional Research Laboratory, Albany, Calif.

New Plant Industry men

Alfalfa investigations at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., are now in charge of Dr. Hugo O. Graumann, who transferred from the USDA post at Lincoln, Nebr. He has conducted alfalfa breeding work at the University of Nebraska for 5 years, and was secretary of the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association from 1942 to 1944. Dr. Angus O. Hanson, formerly with State College, Pa., is the leader of the USDA grass improvement project. He has worked at the U. S. Pasture Laboratory at Penn State College and holds degrees at McGill University, the University of British Columbia, and Penn State College.

Whitaker wins award

T. W. Whitaker, geneticist at the U. S. Field Laboratory, La Jolla, Calif., is using a cash award received from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences to do further research on cucurbits. The award was granted in recognition of his research in the field of cultivated cucurbits. In 1947 he won a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Bulletin warehouse moved

All mail or publications and processed material from agency field offices which formerly were addressed to the publications warehouse of the Office of Information at 501 26th Street, NW., should hereafter be sent to the new location in the South Building, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Operations research talks

Dr. Joseph F. McCloskey, Operations Research Office, Johns Hopkins University, is chairman of a series of Graduate School lectures on operations research. The full schedule of lecturers in the series may be had from the Registrar. They began March 31 and will end June 23, all being open to the public at 4 p. m. in the Jefferson Auditorium.

Visit field stations

Detailed review and inspection of field work by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering in 17 Western States is being done by Omer J. Kelley, head of the Division of Soil Management, Irrigation and Dry Land Regions. In the eastern half of the country a similar review is handled by R. Q. Parks and associates in the Division of Soil Management for Humid Regions.

Government still exhibited

This is not something one might connect with the revenue officers but a continuous still developed at the Naval Store Station, Olustee, Fla., by the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. The public saw it demonstrated on January 29. Its advantages are lower initial and labor costs and lower costs of operation. Its steam consumption is about half that required for the batch steam process. It is administered by the Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans, La.

Add new courses

The USDA Graduate School has three new courses added to its correspondence program. Nathan I. Brown, Soil Conservation Service, teaches soils, and soils management, 15 lessons, 2 credits allowed. Max Kohler, U. S. Weather Bureau, teaches a course in hydrology, 16 lessons, for 2 credits. Eugene May, cartographic engineer, SCS, teaches basic lettering, in 7 lessons for 1 credit. Fees for the above courses in order are $28.75, $33.50, and $14. Correspondence students making applications for enrollment should send checks or money orders payable to the USDA Graduate School.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR APRIL 22, 1953

Cotton classers

BY VISITING a district cotton classing office, one gets a better idea of the cotton grading and market news service which is authorized under the Smith-Doxey Act. This service is free to members of recognized groups of producers who fulfill certain requirements as to variety and who make application in advance of the producing season.

The Birmingham, Ala., cotton classing office is in the Southeastern Area, supervised by Harold K. Tinsley, Atlanta, Ga. Arthur E. Jackson, with experience in the service at Washington, D. C., and the field offices of the Cotton Branch at Dallas, Tex., and Columbia, S. C., is in charge there. This office classes cotton for growers in 28 northern Alabama counties, including Madison—the largest cotton producing county in the State. The other Alabama cotton classing office is located at Montgomery, with T. Frank Smith in charge. Five other district cotton classing offices are located in the Southeast Area.

Improved, tested standard varieties like Coker 100-W, Delta Pine, Stoneville, and Empire are largely grown with success in the Birmingham classing area. In 1930 the Alabama growers started a campaign to swing away from short-staple cotton, with the cooperation of bankers, ginners, and dealers. By use of better varieties, Mr. Jackson said that the average staple length of cotton in that area has moved up from around $\frac{7}{8}$ inch to $1\frac{1}{32}$ inch—but without the grading and service work such a measure of actual progress would have been lacking.

Cotton community groups were formed embodying in many cases broad improvement in facilities and welfare aside from the major crop itself. The present market news service to growers in this area, with prices quoted and movements reported during the active season, originates in Memphis and Atlanta. From the market news sheets he gets by mail and the radio reports supplied by local stations, the farmer can tell approximately what his cotton is worth. The classers in the Department service also class cotton on a fee basis for merchants or others who apply, and for futures trading operations, besides handling the free grower classing work. Cotton classed in the Southeast Area ending June 30, 1952, totaled 1,143,226 bales—925,000 under the act.

Fees derived from classing for mills, merchants, and shippers; from the sale of standards boxes which are the basis for the market grades; and from the sale of loose samples used by the classers, which are bagged and baled and sold on bids, all go to the United States Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. On this last item, Mr. Jackson said that last year the Birmingham office sold 186 bales of 500 pounds each which resulted from the operations of their offices. Rodney Whitaker of the Cotton Branch says that in the 1952 fiscal year all such loose cotton brought a total of $1,398,559 income to the Government.

From a regular routine staff of 6 persons, the Birmingham district office expands in the cotton harvest season to as many as 50 seasonal workers. A regular field man works constantly with the farmers and county agents. It is hard to get well trained and expert classers, unless some "oldtimers" are available on emergency demand—and they are always scarce in the "new" Western cotton belt. Mr. Jackson says that a good classer and his recorder clerk can do between 500 and 600 bales per day when the rush market season is on.

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Recreation assembly

Charles H. Cunningham, coordinator of activities for the USDA Welfare and Recreation Association, will represent our employees at the convention of the National Industrial Recreation Association, Cleveland, Ohio, May 17–20. A scrapbook of numerous USDA recreation activities is being shaped up for an exhibit at the meeting. Miss Monica Crocker, retired employee in Office of Personnel, is now employed in Mr. Cunningham's office.

It features figures

"AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS" for 1952, with 850 indexed pages of tables that give the answers to millions of practical farm questions, is ready for its usual somewhat limited distribution. All libraries, agricultural colleges and universities, extension personnel, and field and branch offices receive them, but there are never enough printed for widespread general circulation.

Until 1936 the statistical reviews were part of the annual Yearbook of Agriculture. Beginning that year, they have since been issued as separates. One feature of this year's publication is that the whole series of figures on wheat, corn, cotton, and such major crops are carried back to 1866; and for livestock numbers the series lists all years since 1867. The last historical review like this was found in the 1942 edition, so that it will not now be necessary to consult the 1942 issue to get the full record, owing to the revised series being in the current one.

The first seven chapters this year cover the figures on crops and livestock products. Chapter 8 deals with foreign trade. Chapter 9 has farm resources, income, and expenditures. Agricultural conservation, forestry, and soil surveys appear in chapter 10. Chapter 11 is a new chapter carried for the first time in the book and relates to farm consumption and family living. Chapter 11 is an assortment of miscellaneous statistics related to farms and farming.

Directed and compiled as a Department publication, the bulletin of statistics is a product of this Committee: R. K. Smith, chairman. with June E. Panciera, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Ralph U. Battles, Farm Credit Administration; Samuel W. Mendum, BAE; Carleton P. Barnes, Agricultural Research Administration; Almon T. Mace, Farmers Home Administration; O. M. Johnson, Extension Service (retired); Walter L. Schreiber, Foreign Agricultural Service; Creighton N. Guellow and Ronald E. Betts, Production and Marketing Administration.

Mosquito memo

H. H. Stage, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, joint author of Agricultural Handbook No. 46, "Mosquitoes of the Northwestern States," says that the bulletin carriers information on the several species of mosquitoes frequenting certain kinds of water. It shows that any body of water does not always breed mosquitoes and that the malaria-carrying kind do not breed in filthy water, but rather in clear pond water. One species that develops in almost all kinds of water west of the Mississippi is the *Culex tarsalis*, most frequent carrier in the United States of sleeping sickness in humans and the related brain disease of horses and mules.

Badgers Get Bird

WHEN NOTABLE scientific workers resign from the Department to join State or other experiment station research, a chance is afforded to review some of the accomplishments in which the person concerned contributed to the sum total of new knowledge acquired in this cooperative State-Federal effort.

Take a recent case in point, that of Dr. H. R. Bird, now with the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture as professor of poultry husbandry, after serving more than a decade with the Bureau of Animal Industry in poultry nutrition. During his term of service with the Department, Dr. Bird and associates plowed considerable new ground—the following being merely an outline:

They showed that the "unknown factor" of animal protein supplements was present in the feces of cows and chickens even when absent from the diet—thus pointing to its microbiological synthesis. They demonstrated that this factor was in reality a vitamin. They showed that this vitamin was transmitted from dam to offspring to a greater extent than any previously studied nutrient; and that its presence was required for reproduction as well as growth. It was demonstrated that the requirement for this vitamin was related to dietary protein level.

A short term chick assay for this vitamin was devised. After crystalline vitamin B_{12} became available, they demonstrated that it was the unknown factor required for growth and hatchability. Later they made the first study of the growth-promoting effects of the phenylarsonic acids. In practical terms, they showed the importance of vitamin B_{12} in diets containing soybean meal and cottonseed meal as major sources of protein, and established the relative importance of B_{12} and amino acid supplements in such diets.

They developed new information on the poisonous nature of the gossypol of cottonseed meal for chicks. They showed that the growth stimulating effect of antibiotics persists to maturity, even with a nutritionally complete diet.

They found that antibiotics do not affect the reproduction of chickens fed a complete diet, but did improve hatchability if the diet lacks vitamin B_{12}. They first demonstrated the importance of environment in determining the effect of removal of antibiotics from chick diets, thus providing evidence on the mode of action of dietary antibiotics. It was demonstrated that a chick growing diet complete in all known nutrients, with added B_{12}, antibiotic, and phenylarsonic acid, still lacks an unknown factor supplied by certain animal and fermentation products.

Power of Appreciation

SINCERE WORDS of appreciation bind people together as no other force. They bring deeper satisfaction than can come from any other source. They have a power of motivation that enriches life and impels one to greater service. Such words of appreciation were expressed in a letter to an agency head by the widow of an USDA employee recently killed in an automobile accident. In her letter she stated:

I wish to thank you for your very kind letter. It has been a great comfort to me to feel the concern that you have shown for the welfare of my son and me. When I learned of my husband's death I felt so alone. I had been away from my home in Texas almost 20 years. I hardly knew which way to turn. There were so many things that hit me all at once, and one was the fact that I would have the full responsibility for our 3-year-old son. Financially this would be quite a problem. I never thought to look to your office because he had been with you such a short time. I didn't expect anything. I only tell you this so you will perhaps understand how grateful I am.

Almost before I felt the need, the assistance began. Your letters arrived and the supervisor and others from your office started taking over. They did so many things for me that were so wonderful and unexpected that I could not begin to tell you. When I think of what I would have had to do without their assistance, I don't see how I could have managed. Perhaps some of their assistance was routine, but it certainly never was done in that manner. I have never seen an organization from the top all the way through with such a heart. I have been told that the claims that have been submitted for me and my son are now before the Federal Employees Compensation Board. I want you and everyone concerned to know how deeply I appreciate what has been done in my behalf.

The Department is deeply grateful for words of appreciation such as these. They will further motivate supervisors and employees to greater service, especially when understanding, counsel and assistance are so sorely needed.

Training phone engineers

Rural Electrification Administration has a telephone engineer training program. It is for groups of recent college graduates in electrical engineering. The primary idea is to develop the ability of new graduates to work in this field with a maximum of efficiency at the earliest possible time. The course lasts 6 months with lectures, classroom work, and field trips.

Heavy blood donors

Congratulations by Secretary Benson went to Leonard Garraway, Dairy Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration, and E. E. Brown of the PMA Grain Branch for heavy donations of blood to the Red Cross blood bank. Mr. Garraway has averaged 5 pints a year since 1943, or a total of 42 pints in all. Mr. Brown gave 42½ pints in all since 1942.

Unemployed farmers

THOUSANDS OF farmers are really unemployed a large part of the time. The size of their farms or their relative productivity is so small that they have little left at the end of a season although they worked hard every day. This sounds strange against the fact that during the last 20 years farm population in the United States has declined 7 million while the total population has increased 31 million.

In discussing the vexing problem of who will remain on the farms of the future to meet the needful one-fourth increase in our food supply by 1975, the editorial staff of Successful Farming devote a chapter to the disadvantaged rural families in their fiftieth anniversary book, "New Farm Horizons." To quote briefly:

Already a Government agency, the Farmers Home Administration is doing excellent work helping those who want to farm but lack the capital to get going. It can also help those with too small a farm to expand to an efficient size. Unfortunately, its total resources are too limited to go much further than a good demonstration of the possibilities. The task is a gigantic one. There are at least a million full-time farm operators with little outside income or employment, whose annual production in recent years has been under $1,500—and they are all able-bodied, according to the National Planning Association's agricultural committee.

Clear thinkers see the day when the Farmers Home Administration will function in helping men on the land—and also in helping them to get away from it, when necessary. For those who are convinced they can do better in some other occupation, the agency will be able to help. Help will consist of vocational guidance and tests of fitness plus some training for the new work. Labor is likely to be scarce and somewhat poorly distributed for some time to come.

In closing their treatise on this subject, the editors state that hard work has not been banished from farming, but that hard work without skill and capital has become fruitless in agriculture.

Aerial water delivery

Equipment engineers of the Forest Service have been concerned in recent months with further studies looking to the development of better methods of water delivery by air to outlying stations and for fire suppression. Water delivery by fixed-wing planes and helicopters is a complicated problem, not easily understood without much thought, observation, experiment, and analysis. A desire to limit and standardize the equipment in such important safety efforts is a primary consideration of the field crews.

Blackfly battle

The objective of the Department's crusade against the citrus blackfly is to keep it out of this country, and, if that fails, to wipe it out here. One way is through parasitic enemies. The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine has brought in some useful parasites of the blackfly from Asia. In cooperation with the Mexican Blackfly Comite Nacional, these parasites are colonized and distributed in the infested area there.

Driving dangers

EXPRESSING INTEREST in articles in *USDA* relating to reducing the dangers of motor traffic in the Department, O. G. Babcock, retired former employee of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, speaks his mind from his home in Sonora, Calif. If given by experienced and sympathetic supervisors, the corrective measures which have been suggested heretofore are approved by him—driver testing and training, preventive maintenance, inspection and accident investigation.

But Mr. Babcock adds some ideas gleaned from his own long experience driving Government autos:

My experience has often been that orders were given me to reach a certain distant destination by a certain time, without fail, and to wire back on arrival. Such orders are ridiculous and encourage and almost force employees to ignore speed in living up to them. If an accident happens I would certainly hold the party in charge responsible. I consider the employee responsible, but he should receive authority to drive carefully and safely regardless of other orders. Even if it is possible to reach a point within 2 days, it is much safer and cheaper to the Government to reach that place in a fraction over 2 days—besides unknown factors may develop en route.

Cars should always be kept in first class running condition. I have seen this rule disregarded many times by Department employees in charge. Where employees are obliged to use their own cars and pool rides to save expense, there is danger also. If the laboratory is out of town and no means of travel is provided, the employee must use his own car. Take this case in point: Employee A drives to work. He makes a second drive into the country with a Government car on official business. His work carries him to or beyond the time to return, or he needs just a little more time to finish the job—to avoid making another trip out there the next day. On his return he thinks of three or more persons who are to ride into town with him. But A is late and speeds up his car in time to pick up these people at the laboratory on the agreed hour. I have taken these same chances myself and it is dangerous. The question is how to correct this condition without conflict with other rules and regulations.

What do the drivers of the Department's 20,000 and more automobiles and trucks have to similarly contribute to the present safety campaign?

Miss Arras to Mexico

Miss Lucille Arras has left USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service to become administrative assistant to Dr. Ross E. Moore, director of point IV work in Mexico. She was with OFAR from 1944 to February 1953.

Census questions

A trial run of questionairres for the 1955 farm census has been contemplated. Sample sheets of questions covering the farm and home data have been circulated to get opinions and suggestions. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics works closely with the Bureau of the Census in arranging details in advance of each agricultural enumeration.

Said on the side

WISEACRES from the statehouse used to come to meetings in our old valley and tell the district school board that all us pupils were robbed of big advantages by having only 7 months of school, instead of 8 or 9 months as in town. (It was a long time, though, before they lengthened the term.) Some critics claimed that we shouldn't be expected to work long hours out in the fields when we ought to be kept in school studying hard so we could bust down the barriers against youngsters like us who were ignorant and countrified. I guess they thought we were disgusted with outdoor chores and wanted to be cooped up in spring just to get out of farm work and study about more important things than plowing and seeding and weed-killing. Yet the truth is we were anything but that. The signs of spring and the smell of the earth waking up everywhere, the bird calls, and the fresh air and green pastures, were what we thought about and enjoyed most on our way to and fro attending district school. Maybe we were too small and undersized in our minds to realize that book learning was so valuable. But we sometimes wondered why the teacher and the school board didn't give us lessons about the growing things of nature that farmers live with, and how their beauty and charm doesn't really interfere with making use of them in a beneficial and practical way. (Since then the country school subjects take in many of the things we wanted then, but never got.) We managed to live through the last week of the 7 months somehow, and soon after April fool's day we shut the school door and kicked up our heels like colts and tackled the jobs that the folks back home had saved up for us. I guess some of us were pretty tuckered out and ready enough to go back to see the school ma'am in the fall—but what we learned on the farm in vacation we always remembered; but we never missed what they claimed we might have found out in a longer term at the district school.

Gilbert retires

Ray Gilbert retired from the Motion Pictures Services on March 31. He had been with the Office of Information's film studios for 32 years, doing technical animation and sound editing. Raised in Washington, D. C., Mr. Gilbert belonged for 3 years to the United States Army Engineer Band of 62 pieces. He played the flute and piccolo in that organization during World War I.

Periodical show

During the month of May some 50 periodicals published as employee house organs of numerous Federal departments and agencies will be displayed in the exhibit hall of the Federal Security Agency building here.

Brief and choice

Vermont checks accidents

The Vermont Farm Safety Council reports 153 accidents on farms there in a 20-month period ending last December 31. Of these, 38 proved fatal. In order of hazards causing the accidents were the tractor, falls, other farm machinery, and the herd sire. County agents keep a clipping service for the Council that aids in listing these farm injuries. The head of the Council is Thomas S. Blow, Vermont's PMA administrative officer at Burlington. They seek a full-time safety specialist, Mr. Blow reports, who would work out of the Vermont Agricultural Extension Service.

Ward's new work

Ray Ward, formerly with the USDA Office of Budget and Finance, is the staff director for the Inter-Governmental Relations Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations. His field of work will be to promote efficiency and economy in Government affairs, and his duties involve all Federal departments except the Defense Department.

Noone to Film Council

Thomas Noone has resigned from the USDA Motion Pictures Service to join the Film Council of America at Evanston, Ill. Mr. Noone came to the Department's Radio Services in April 1948. A native of Kansas, he has worked for the National Broadcasting Co., and Station KFI in Los Angeles, Calif.

Lap full of laws

USDA administers many Federal laws. The Production and Marketing Administration is responsible for handling cases under the following: Packers and Stockyards Act, Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, United States Cotton Futures Act, Produce Agency Act, Standards Container Acts, United States Warehouse Act, Federal Seed Act, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, United States Grain Standards Act, United States Cotton Standards Act, Naval Stores Act, Tobacco Inspection Act, and the Export Apple and Pear Act.

A murder story

One of the USDA bureaus has sent out to its field offices a reminder on the provisions of the law concerning assaults upon, or killing of, officers and employees while engaged in the performance of their duties. Forcible assault of such a Federal official on duty calls for a $5,000 fine or imprisonment for not more than 3 years, or both. If anyone assaults such an officer with a deadly weapon the fine is advanced to $10,000 and the term in prison up to ten years. Whoever kills an employee doing official Department duties will be tried for murder under the United States Criminal Code. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, will conduct all investigations of assaults upon, or killing of officers and employees, upon receipt of such alleged violations from the local official in charge of the given work, or from the Washington headquarters of the agency concerned.

Raisin Pie for Employees

In anticipation of PMA's special Plentiful Foods Program which will feature raisins May 10–16, the Agriculture employees' cafeterias in Washington staged a promotional campaign on raisin pie and boosted sales from the usual 50 pies to 80 on March 11, and to 103 when repeated on March 18—on the latter day topping the usual favorites, lemon meringue, and apple.

Officers of WRA

The new president of the USDA Welfare and Recreation Association is Don DeVol, Fiscal Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. Paul Johnson, PMA, and and Perry Colman, PMA, are vice presidents. Lewis Reid, Farmers Home Administration, is treasurer, while Zelma J. Hicks, Office of Information, is secretary. The association was organized in 1943.

New OPEDA executives

The delegates to the Council of the Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture elected officers of the association recently. The executive committee consists of the following: C. O. Henderson, Personnel, president; E. L. LeClerg, ARA, vice president; Thelma A. Dreis, BHNHE, secretary-treasurer; and Verna C. Mohagen, SCS; L. K. Wright, BEPQ; W. M. Scott, BAIC; Harry C. Trelogan, ARA; B. A. Porter, BEPQ; Charles Mattison, FS; B. Ralph Stauber, BAE; and L. T. Mahurin, OPEDA executive officer. Two-thirds of the 2,500 active paid-up members are in the field offices. Qualifications for membership include all personnel of GS grade 5 and above and grade 4 employees who are employed in scientific or subprofessional duties. It is not a long-hair high-brow selective unit.

Hybrid corn in India

Some United States corn hybrids outyielded all local varieties in 1952 at each of 14 locations in India, says the Foreign Agricultural Service. A few stand out prominently. Dixie 22 was in the top five at 11 places, Texas 26 at 9 locations, Dixie 33 at 7 points, Dixie 11 at 6 places, and U. S. 523 hybrid at 4 test spots.

Weed research evolution

In the 1953 winter issue of Public Administration Review appears an article on the evolution of a research program on weed control. The authors are Roy L. Lovvorn, Division of Weed Investigations, and Marguerite Gilstrap, information specialist, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

Albuquerque USDA club

Dr. Lake S. Gill of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, is the new president of the USDA Club of Albuquerque, N. Mex. Clare Svendby, Soil Conservation Service, is vice president, and Hazel Hill of PISAE is secretary. A Blood bank supervised by the club is a new project undertaken.

EPQ'ers Club

As of recent date, the EPQ'ers club in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine boasted almost 200 members out of a possible 233. At the annual election the officers named were: Ralph W. Sherman, president; George E. Hanna, vice president; Mrs. Mary Louise Reiff, secretary; Mrs. Johanna C. Flaim, treasurer.

Higher wages might help

Severe handicaps to the greater use of textiles in 15 Western European countries lie in high costs of milling and processing plus extremely low average wages paid to workers in general, according to a statement by John Whittaker, one of our foreign agricultural representatives working with the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Wages paid in many of these countries equal about one dollar per day in U. S. money. This seems to mean that a lift in mass buying power would be a good way to improve economic conditions there, it was indicated.

Just an idea

THOSE WHO cross the ramp that connects the two agricultural buildings on the eastern end are reminded of the early era of "find-how" and "tell-how" by the oil portrait of Dr. Seaman A. Knapp on the corridor wall. Perhaps some day we shall start a portrait hall of fame for other subsequent leaders of agricultural extension and information. No better place than alongside the Knapp portrait could be found to display pictorial reminders of those men and women who have since upheld the idea that Dr. Knapp envisioned.

Along the other, or western, arch causeway between these buildings where the portrait of Secretary Wilson hangs, would be an equally good place to install a similar gallery of the portraits of eminent research scientists in crops, soils, and animal husbandry whose outstanding work in State-Federal service helped make possible the "find-how" that precedes and vitalizes the "tell-how."

There is often grave danger of overdoing just 1 instance, 1 program, 1 leader, or 1 achievement. America seldom depends upon single individuals alone to carry the spark of newer agricultural knowledge. Credit for this belongs to a multitude, even reaching down into communities and townships. Information studies show that the word of a respected neighbor who has been converted to some new and practical method in farming often has more weight and motivation behind it than almost any other "tell-how" medium.

But to perpetuate the national leadership of this kind remains as a true incentive to those who are rising to fresh responsibilities. We have a chance to accomplish this by utilizing the vacant and unused space in the "bridges." Dr. Knapp and Tama Jim both look rather lonesome.

Readers' Reminders

Beef is back

Consumers have been enjoying beef steaks and roasts lately to a greater extent. With cattle numbers high and beef plentiful, USDA has issued a 4-page fact sheet called "Facts About Beef." Ask Office of Information for your copy.

NFLA report

A 35-page annual report of the financial condition, operating results, and workload and cost data for the 1,180 national farm loan associations has been printed by the Farm Credit Administration. Comparative figures for 1951 and 1952 fiscal years are included. Ask FCA's Information and Extension Division for your copy.

Top dressing corn

Using strawy manure or plain straw as a top dressing for corn when put on at planting time or right afterward, according to experiments by H. L. Borst, USDA research agronomist at Wooster, Ohio, State Experiment Station, holds water and soil better than after plowing under the manure. But too much cultivation retards the effect of these mulches. See release No. 698, obtainable from the editor of *USDA*.

Video methods

The third in a series of television reports issued by the Department to record progress made in television research is being distributed. "Progress Methods" deals with practical television program planning and production to fit the needs of land grant colleges, field agencies of USDA and others. The work is done with funds under the Research and Marketing Act. Write Radio and Television Service if you need a copy.

Hoppers, bugs, and crickets

A forecast has been issued of some trouble spots likely to develop this season when the grasshoppers, Mormon crickets, and chinch bugs start work in earnest. Ask *USDA* editor for No. 638.

New resistant oat

Clintafe oat variety is known to be highly resistant to Race 45 of crown rust disease. It is a product of the plant breeders in Iowa Experiment Station and USDA. It is a cross between Clinton and Santa Fe, an Argentina variety. The new variety has only average yield qualities, however, but its value against destructive Race 45 makes it important temporarily. Notes on this oat are obtainable from *USDA* editor, asking for No. 666.

Long-time look ahead

A report on the long–time objectives for a strong State–Federal agricultural research program are embodied in a special circular entitled, "Agricultural Research, a Key to Strengthening the American Way of Life." The report was made by the Agricultural Research Policy Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture. Copies may be obtained from the ARA Administrator's office.

Management talent

The Executive Development Programs Staff of the United States Civil Service Commission has a new circular series telling how Federal agencies develop management talent. The first report gives the training done by various USDA agencies to develop talent for management and supervision. "The USDA is a recognized leader among Federal agencies in the development of a strong career service ideal among its employees," the introduction states. *USDA* office has no copies.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR MAY 6, 1953

Whence farm incomes?

THE IMPORTANCE of nonfarm sources of earnings to families who live on farms has been pointed out in a recent report by Virginia Britton of the Family Economics Division of BHNHE. In fact, according to a special tabulation of Census data, a sixth of the families living on farms in April 1951 had received no cash earnings whatsoever from farming in 1950—received no farm wages and made no sales of farm products. More than a quarter of the families had cash earnings from both farm and nonfarm sources. A few families had no cash earnings. Slightly less than half had cash earnings from farm sources only, including farm operation and farm wages or salary.

Only a third of all families living on farms in April 1951 were what we once thought to be typical farm families—the families of farm-operators with no additional source of earnings during the previous year. These farm-operator families with no additional earnings who lived on farms made up only 5 percent of all families in the United States. An additional 1 percent of the Nation's families were farm-operator families with no additional earnings in 1950 who lived in cities, towns, or villages in April 1951. Some of these were nonresident operators; some were resident operators of farms within urban areas; and some probably lived in rural areas and operated farms there in 1950, then moved to nonfarm areas.

There has been an increase in recent years in the proportion of workers living on farms who are employed primarily in nonagricultural industries. With the growth of factories in rural areas and increased opportunities for employment, many farm-operators have become part-time nonfarm wage workers. Their wives and other family members also have found employment in the factories. Furthermore, the growth of factories in rural areas has brought new families into the communities—some of them live on farms but do not operate them for profit. Improved roads and crowded living conditions in cities have led many city families to move onto farms in the rural areas surrounding the urban centers where they work.

Such changes have advanced to the point that over a third of the families living on farms in April 1951 received more cash earnings from nonfarm sources than from farming in 1950; three-fifths received the major part of their cash earnings from farming; and a few had no earnings.

Knowing that families live on farms tells something about them, but knowing their sources of earnings adds decidedly to an understanding of how they live. Sources of income may affect not only the total level of earnings, but the regularity and predictability of family income, and whether family interests are likely to lie with the land or the town.

The emergence of an "American standard of living," common to farm and nonfarm families, has been noted. Income gains of farm families are one reason. More services available to rural people—electricity, schools, and community organizations—are another. A third influence on farm family living patterns is the extent to which farm families now depend on nonfarm sources of income.

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Cotton's realm on view

FEATURE EXHIBITS are placed in the patio of the Administration Building during National Cotton Week—May 11–15, with numerous Department workers and the National Cotton Council cooperating. A huge cotton boll surmounts the central fountain overlooking the varied displays.

Secretary Benson is scheduled to open National Cotton Week by an address in the patio in the forenoon of May 11. He will also accept a silver trophy on behalf of the Department from the family of Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, the father of farm demonstration work. This fits in to the 50th anniversary program of the founding of agricultural demonstration work in 1903, with cotton as the chief crop. Other invited speakers are Senator Aiken and Congressman Hope, chairmen of the Agriculture Committees of the Senate and House, respectively.

Included in the work performed on the displays in the patio are employees of the Office of Information Exhibits Service, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, Agricultural Extension Service, the Cotton Branch and the Marketing Facilities and Research Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, Farm Credit Administration, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and Foreign Agricultural Service.

L. I. Jones, Ext., is chairman of the exhibit's executive committee, with these members: Dr. J. W. Wright and W. J. Martin, Cotton Branch, PMA; Alice Linn, Ext.; Robert E. Stevenson, ARA–AIC; Frank Teuton, ARA–AIC; H. T. Baldwin, Inf.; J. N. Saunders, Ext.; with Claude Curlin, National Cotton Council.

The exhibit aims to portray to the public and Government employees the story of cotton production, processing, and marketing, and its importance in the lives of 13,000,000 people—6 million persons living on cotton farms and about 7 to 8 million others who get their chief income from cotton milling and merchandising.

Employees of USDA engage in many ways in servicing the entire cotton industry. The wide list of fields include research, production, insect and disease control, education, processing, distribution and marketing. This patio exhibit expresses this union of private industry with State and Federal government institutions for the welfare of the Nation as a whole.

Butter donations

To reduce the inventory of creamery butter acquired under the current USDA price-support program, an additional 50 million pounds are being donated to charitable institutions and nonprofit school lunch programs, besides the 24 million pounds previously diverted to these channels. Section 32 funds are being used to handle the deal.

PMA commodity offices

The San Francisco and the New York City PMA commodity offices have been abolished. Their territory and responsibility have been reassigned to the Portland (Oreg.), and Chicago PMA commodity offices, respectively.

Nematology—new field

THOUGH LACKING the power and space appeal and visibility of some sciences, such as present-day astronomy and physics, for example, plant nematology, the science of a mere thread, you might say, is at a stage of development that may well be described as lively.

One of the indications of its liveliness is that nematologists are continually backing off to take a fresh view of what they are doing. Latest example of this is a talk by Dr. G. Steiner, head of the Division of Nematology at the Department's Plant Industry Station—"Changes in Basic Concepts in Plant Nematology"—delivered before the Potomac Division, American Phytopathological Society.

The changes Steiner mentioned as being adopted or needed in his field of research include, among others, the following:

A better description of species (many different ones have been listed as the same.)

Specification of what conditions and ways of attack determine whether or not a nematode is a plant parasite (formerly it could not be called a parasite if it were not found actually in some part of a plant). Now it is known that nematodes are well fitted for an entoparasitic life, particularly on underground parts, but also above ground, particularly in tufts, buds, and in sheaths of leaves. Today parasitism of plants by nematodes embraces endo- and ecto-parasitism and includes *planositism*, a zoological term for vagrance in parasites—applied to those ecto-parasites that feed on the outside of roots and migrate from root to root—here today and gone perhaps an inch or two tomorrow—or next day.

Change from regarding a particular infestation of nematodes as of a single sort or species to a readiness to recognize actual prevalence of multiple infections and mixed populations. This condition of mixed attack is now thought to be very common in cases of nematode infestation. But, says Dr. Steiner, it is not necessarily the most numerous one that does the most damage.

Recognition that the nematodes frequently associated with dead plant material are not necessarily non-pathogenic, but may be crop antagonistic and many of them are carriers and distributors of bacteria and fungus spores.

Conclusion that plant nematodes are spread mainly with their host plants—but many of them are also spread with infested soil as well as in any kind of plant and packing material that has been in contact with the soil. The nematologists report that cysts of nematodes such as the sugar-beet nematode, the golden nematode of potato, the pea cyst nematode and the oat cyst nematode, are actually being brought into this country on many kinds of carriers. Examples of such carriers are lily-of-the-valley pips, soil around any plant from an infested region (as on imported tulip bulbs, on shamrock, heather, and so on), such used things as bags, packing material, sticks, especially hollow bamboo stakes, and various other conveyances of small quantities of soil.

The plant nematodes are generally out of sight and their obvious effects are so often only a lack of size or thrift that, says Dr. Steiner, fighting them calls for careful study and still more new concepts. He concluded his talk to the phytopathologists by giving his concept of the place of the nematodes in the soil-plant complex: Soil-borne plant diseases are, in many instances, of complex character, and often nematodes are present, acting as initiators, cooperators, synergists and aggravators, or otherwise. They cannot be considered alone.

Yearbook honored

ONE OF the highest honors in the publishing world was accorded *Insects*, the 1952 Yearbook of Agriculture, on April 7 when it was chosen as one of the Fifty Books of the Year by the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

Announcement of the selection was made at the Institute's annual dinner at the Columbia University Club in New York. Alfred Stefferud, Yearbook editor, represented the Department of Agriculture at the function. To the 300 publishers, editors, artists, typographers, and writers present, Stefferud was introduced as the editor of "one of the most unusual books in the whole exhibit—particularly notable because it is practically the only Government-produced book ever to be selected" and as the editor in the same year of another Department-sponsored volume, *The Wonderful World of Books*.

In the competition, the thirty-first conducted by the American Institute of Graphic Arts, 169 publishers from coast to coast submitted 670 examples of their best work. The three-man jury made their selections on the basis of design (the visual appearance of all parts of the book as an integrated pattern); typography (legibility and harmony); editorial content in so far as the design and typography convey the spirit of the book and the intent of the author; and manufacture (quality of composition, materials, printing, etc.).

In its report the jury noted that: "Careful execution is the follow-through which starts with design, requires the backing of the publisher, needs time for thought at all stages, demands intelligent and persistent supervision; and from compositors, plate makers, printers and binders it asks their best. If all this is carried forward with imagination, knowledge, skill and devotion, you have a book that gives joy to the juror's heart and may proudly take its place as one of 'The Fifty.'"

Credit for producing *Insects* was given in the exhibit catalog to the U. S. Department of Agriculture as publisher; Alfred Stefferud, editor; Frank H. Mortimer, head of the Division of Typography and Design of the Government Printing Office, designer; Muriel Chamberlain, of the Government Printing Office, who made the drawings; and Arthur Cushman, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, who made most of the water colors for the illustrations of insects.

Unique short course

TWENTY-THREE home economists, representing 14 Latin American countries, arrived in the United States in January to learn how the Federal Extension Service and Land-Grant Colleges develop homemaking programs for rural people. The women came from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

After a 4 weeks short course in home economics extension work at Texas A&M College, the visitors went to Oklahoma A&M for 6 weeks more study.

Next stop was Washington, D. C., where the women spent a couple of weeks getting acquainted with the Department of Agriculture and other Government departments and from Washington they went to New York to visit the United Nations and other places of interest. Early in May they left for Puerto Rico, for further study of extension work, in a country where problems are similar to those in their own countries. In Puerto Rico, as in Texas and Oklahoma, the Latin American women spent some time visiting farm families and working with home demonstration agents and 4-H Club leaders.

This short course is one of many similar courses, conducted by the Foreign Agricultural Service, for visitors from all parts of the world who come to the United States to study such subjects as agronomy, poultry and livestock husbandry, extension work, rural youth programs, and methods of getting agricultural information to rural people.

Green and luxuriant

Grassland farming received a boost by the seeding or reseeding of 6,925,686 acres of pasture and rangeland under the 1951 Agricultural Conservation Program. This grassland improvement and conservation practice was carried out on 490,493 farms and ranches. From the beginning of ACP in 1936 through 1951 a total of 58,856,504 acres of pasture and range have been seeded or reseeded under this program.

Said on the side

OUR GENERATION who began life's cycle in our old valley were both wise and foolish, backward and progressive, generous and selfish, stubborn and compliant. We let too many weeds grow tall and too much soil go sour, yet we fought betimes for good roads and better schools, and wider opportunity for farm youth. We held fast to the ancient traditions of our community and revered and respected our elders, while at the same time we abandoned many fetishes and foibles and outworn beliefs and gave them decent burial in the boneyard of byegones. Sometimes we were strong and unyielding when we should have been ready to compromise; and again we were provincial and held aloof when we needed wider horizons and wholesome fraternity. Our generation is now almost ready to relinquish the reins we learned to handle in horse-drawn days and pass leadership to vibrant youngsters of the motor and atomic age. Our generation looks for no laurels to be hung on memorial tablets in memory of our contributions to the welfare of our old valley—and perhaps a few places beyond. What good we may have done is so much watered down by the failures and the indifference and lost opportunity we have been guilty of that such tributes are unlooked for and unsought. We have just been fumbling humans, eager from the lost time of our youth to be of some consequence to those relying on us, but seldom feeling that our lives and deeds were indispensable. When we failed and blundered we were sorry and disturbed; and when we had a moment of small triumph the inward glow remained for many years to give us faith that we who lived awhile in our old valley had seen the light of hope and reason and tried to pass it on. Finally, we are humble and proud at once, if you know what we mean; and wait our turn to make a gracious and dignified bow from the sorrows and successes that make rural life a highly seasoned dish in our old valley.

Mrs. McIntyre passes away

On April 20, Mrs. Alvina K. McIntyre, wife of the editor of *USDA*, passed away at a hospital in Alexandria, Va. She had been ill for several weeks. Mrs. McIntyre was born in Madison, Wis., September 6, 1890. Surviving are two daughters—Mrs. Margaret Sakrison of Middleton, Wis., and Mrs. William Schilling—and four grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre had lived in Alexandria, Va., since March 1945.

Ready to retire?

RETIREMENT is one of the most highly prized compensations of Federal service. Yet most of us do little to prepare for it. We are like the people in industry who have come under the observation of Dr. R. B. Robson, Medical Director of General Motors in Windsor, Canada, over many years. In the National Safety News for November 1952 he has summarized the suggestions that his years of observation have led him to make in a story "Conditioning for retirement."

When Dr. Robson first met with a group of men to discuss preparation for retirement most of the men said, "Give us plenty of pension and we'll take care of ourselves." However, it was soon evident to the group that those who were happiest were those who had prepared for retirement. The doctor grouped preparation for retirement under four heads: (1) good health; (2) something to do; (3) some place to live; (4) someone who cares. In the article he discusses them in that order.

My observations as a general practitioner, my experience as an industrial medical director and as the leader in employee group meetings, and my experiences over a great many years in dealing with people, have brought me to the firm conclusion that the happiness of an older population depends not so much upon economic security and the aid of paternalistic agencies, as upon individual preparation for old age.

This monthly publication of the National Safety Council can be obtained in most libraries, including that of the Department. In thirty minutes any reader can have the benefit of the ideas of a man who has observed people before and after retirement for many years. Look for additional literature on retirement in the USDA Library.

Brief and choice

Bar imports of dried milk

An embargo on imports of dried whole milk, dried buttermilk, and dried cream was recently announced by the Department. The action was taken because the Commodity Credit Corporation is acquiring large stocks of butter, cheddar cheese, and nonfat dry milk solids under the price support program for milk and butterfat, and imports of these commodities would result in a need for increased purchases by CCC. Import embargoes now exist on the following commodities: nonfat dry milk solids, butter, high-fat malted milk compounds, flaxseed, linseed oil, peanuts, peanut oil, and rice. Import quotas have been placed on cheddar cheese, Edam and Gouda cheese, Italian cow's milk cheese, blue mold cheese, and varieties of cheese processed from cheddar and blue mold.

Better Information

A grant of nearly $344,000 from the Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich., will help to finance a research project designed to find better ways of carrying information on agricultural and home economics to rural people. The program, officially known as "A National Project in Agricultural Communications," was originally fostered by the American Association of Agricultural College Editors. Additional financial support from the land-grant colleges and universities and from other sources is expected to bring the budget for this 5-year project to over $600,000. At the end of this period, it is hoped that the project will be self-supporting. Michigan State College has been chosen as the home site for the project. The project is under the direction of a 10-man board of control, of which Francis C. Byrnes, agricultural editor at Ohio State University, is chairman.

Greeley Goes to Alaska

Arthur W. Greeley, the son of William B. Greeley, chief of the Forest Service from 1920 to 1928, has been appointed regional forester for Alaska, to succeed B. Frank Heintzleman who recently became governor of the territory.

Corn pest campaign

J. S. Ingram recipient in 1952 of a Superior Service Award for his research on sugar-cane insects, is now in charge of a newly reorganized and coordinated Federal program of research on corn-insect problems by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Federal research, which until recently was largely concentrated on ways to control the European Corn borer and the corn earworm, will now give emphasis to control of all major corn pests, including the Southwestern corn borer, soil insects of corn and other less well-known but important enemies of the crop. Stations for studying these insects will be located in at least 7 different States. This research will be dovetailed with efforts of States and other agencies to avoid duplication of effort and to cover existing problems more thoroughly.

Sweet pickle spoilage

Exact proportions of sugar and vinegar that need to be added during the manufacture of sweet cucumber pickles so they will keep safely, have been developed by the Food Fermentation Laboratory of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. With the North Carolina Experiment Station cooperating, this new chart formula will be of practical value to pickle manufacturers who hitherto lacked exact procedures to replace the trial or error method.

The "style manual"

Just because nothing was said about where copies might be secured, the recent article appearing in *USDA* relative to the new revised edition of the "Style Manual" caused needless correspondence—for which we are sorry. Get your copies of the Government "Style Manual" through your own agency administrative offices or else send required sums to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The paper-bound editions cost $1.00 and the cloth-bound ones sell for $2.25 each.

Section 22 preferred

President Eisenhower has started an investigation to study agricultural imports and recommend action for placing those now embargoed under Section 104 of the Defense Production Act (which expires June 30) under ban through Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act. Reasons for doing this and brief lists of products covered under Section 104 are found in No. 834, obtainable from the editor of *USDA*.

Television report completed

The final section of a report on USDA's Television Research Project carried out under Title II of the Research and Marketing Act has been completed. This third section of the report by Maynard Speece, former USDA Television Supervisor, Alice F. Skelsey, Television Information Specialist, and Kenneth M. Gapen, Assistant Director of Information deals with program methods for television. Copies are available from Television Service, Office of Information.

Teuton grows camellias

Frank Teuton, information chief for BAIC, recently gave members of the USDA Garden Club some good pointers on camellia culture. For some years he has been growing this beautiful Southern flower at his home about ten miles south of Washington, D. C. His experience is proof positive that many varieties of camellias will flourish in this area if given proper care.

Too many potatoes

Secretary Benson has cautioned potato growers to look again at their intentions to plant potatoes this spring. The outlook for potatoes this year, based on March 1 plans reported by growers, is for an increase of 92,000 acres over 1952. At average yields, this acreage would produce 25 to 30 million bushels more than is needed to meet all foreseeable requirements. "Production so much in excess of needs is bound to result in lower farm returns," the Secretary warned.

New wheat agreement

The International Wheat Council decided by a substantial majority to recommend to member Governments that the International Wheat Agreement, due to expire on July 31 of this year, be extended for another 3-year period at a new price range of $2.05 maximum and $1.55 minimum to replace the present range of $1.80 maximum and $1.20 minimum. The new Agreement requires the signature of 80 percent of the exporting countries and 70 percent of the importing countries before it can be submitted to member Governments for final approval or ratification.

Blue tongue expert

Dr. R. A. Alexander, director of Veterinary Services for the Union of South Africa, has accepted an invitation to come here to help study the sheep disease recently identified as blue tongue. It was Dr. Alexander who identified the disease from chick embryo cultures obtained from diseased sheep in California. The diagnosis was made at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Laboratories of the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

Oranges more popular

The results of a survey have just been published which shows that we used about a quarter of a million more boxes of oranges in February 1953 than during the same month a year earlier. This represents an 8 percent increase in fresh oranges, a 26 percent increase in frozen concentrated juice, but a 26 percent decrease in canned single-strength orange juice. Copies of the full 16-page report are available from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Clarkson fights VE

Dr. M. R. Clarkson, deputy administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration, is now in charge of the Department's program for eradication of vesicular exanthema. VE is similar to foot-and-mouth disease but does not affect cattle, sheep or other ruminants. Since it first appeared outside of California in June 1952, it has been found in parts of 39 States, and at present areas of 15 States are under quarantine.

Grain sanitation agreement

Last month the USDA and the Federal Security Agency perfected and signed an agreement between them relating to practical cooperation in promoting greater sanitation in the warehousing, transportation, and milling of food grains. Briefly, it provides that the research and educational efforts of USDA will continue on a wider front, while certain modifications are made in the Food and Drug Administration's regulations that determine whether court actions may be taken against certain consignments of infested storage wheat. In return for an agreement by the Commodity Credit Corporation to inspect, divert, and fumigate its grain coming under the defined Food and Drug rules, the Food and Drug Administration will not take legal action against wheat clearly identified as the property of CCC.

Expansion of irrigation

High farm prices and demand for agricultural products between 1940–1950 have resulted in the greatest expansion in irrigation acreage in the Nation's history, according to Elco Greenshields writing in the "Agricultural Situation" for April, 1953. During this period 8 million acres were added to the irrigated land area in 17 Western States. The 1950 Census of Agriculture recorded a total of 25,787,000 irrigated acres on 305,061 farms in all States.

Bad "bee-having" strains

A bee strain with the most vicious disposition ever encountered resulted when specialists in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine combined an outstanding honey-producing strain developed by Dr. C. L. Farrar at the Madison, Wis., laboratory with a strain highly resistant to foulbrood perfected by Dr. A. P. Sturtevant at the Laramie, Wyo., field station. The union of these valuable strains resulted in bees that would almost sting through armor plate and seemed to hate the human race in general. So now the BEPQ scientists are busy changing the combination in a genetic way to eliminate the line that has been identified as hot-temper carriers.

Singing crickets

If you return from the Orient with a basket of singing crickets in tow, entry permit will be denied unless authorized under provisions of the Insect Pest Act of 1905. The Japanese use these crickets as household pets, but our own chirping crickets claim we need not import any competitors hoping to outdo native talent.

What is an arboretum?

What is the difference between an arboretum and a botanical garden? According to Francis de Vos, horticulturist at the U. S. National Arboretum, the arboretum is concerned with a well labeled, living collection of woody plants hardy within its area; the botanical garden with a well labeled collection of both woody and herbaceous plants; and the park with only secondary interest in plants, with a few exceptions. He also pointed out that research and education on plants were primary functions of arboretums and botanic gardens, whereas the park had as its chief functions recreation and relaxation.

Money grows on young trees

That "youth must be served" is brought out in recent talks to apple growers by L. P. Batjer of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. "In my opinion", he said, "the outlook for the apple industry as a whole is favorable. I believe one of the biggest problems which confronts every major fruit section is the replacement of old trees. In producing high yields of quality fruit I subscribe wholeheartedly to the axiom 'money is made on young trees.'"

Readers' Reminders

Protecting woolens

"Clothes Moths and Carpet Beetle—How to Combat Them," is a new USDA publication which describes the methods and materials now available to the housewife for use in her perpetual battle against the wool-eating larvae of these two pests. Among materials discussed is the new EQ-53, developed by USDA scientists for mothproofing washable woolens by simply adding small quantities to the wash water. EQ-53 is coming on the markets this spring under various trade names. Ask for Home and Garden Bulletin No. 24 from Inquiries and Distribution Service, Office of Information.

Certified seed list

J. M. Saunders, extension agronomist, Federal Extension Service, has finished the annual report on seed certified by State certifying agencies. True identification of varieties plus other quality considerations govern State seed certification, with tags sealed to the containers. Copies are available for those most directly interested.

Foreign trade statement

What Secretary Benson told the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry in its recent hearings on improved foreign trade relations is embodied in a special statement with statistical supplement. Promotion of sound foreign trade is a leading objective of the present administration. The statement is obtainable by asking for No. 818—until the supply is gone.

Not for general circulation

A bulletin of hints and suggestions on planning suitable telephone directories has been prepared by the Telephone Loans Division, Rural Electrification Administration. Borrowers requested help in their directory problems, and this is the result. How to use dial phones and other service information is included. But the general public is not invited to write in for this limited publication. Its results should show up soon in the form of better phone directories.

Buy U. S. bonds

In a recent memorandum to employees, Secretary Benson pointed to the fact that 31.3 percent of the Department's personnel are participating in the Payroll Savings Plan for purchase of U. S. Savings Bonds. He suggested that with very little effort participation might be raised to 50 percent. For employees who are considering bond purchases these are the series which are available: "E" bonds, the mostly widely held series, run for nine years and eight months. Interest adds gradually to the value of the bond, averaging 3 percent a year if the bond is held to maturity. "H" bonds have the same interest rate and maturity span, but they are sold at face value and interest is payable twice a year, in increasing amounts until maturity. "H" is a good buy if you need to draw interest currently. "J" and "K" bonds are 12-year series with interest rates which average out at 2.76 percent. Interest accrues till maturity on "J" bonds and is payable twice yearly on the "K" series.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR MAY 20, 1953

Distinguished service

DR. FRED C. BISHOPP, EPQ; Washington, D. C.: For organizing, conducting, and directing research which has resulted in the development of effective methods of controlling plant pests, thereby contributing to the welfare of all mankind.

DR. STERLING B. HENDRICKS, PISAE, Beltsville, Md.: For his contribution of fundamental knowledge to the advancement of science.

ALLENE R. JEANES, AIC, Peoria, Ill.: For pioneering chemical research on dextrans and for leadership and effective contributions in an extensive research program for national defense which expedited the development of blood plasma substitutes from dextrans.

DR. HENRY A. JONES, PISAE; Beltsville, Md.: For discovery and outstanding original research into the genetics of cytoplasmic male sterility in plants and developing methods of its application to commercial production of F_1 hybrid seed previously unobtainable.

JOSEPH M. MEHL, CEA; Washington, D. C.: For vision and leadership in developing Federal regulation of futures trading in agricultural commodities, and for fostering principles of equity and integrity in the Nation's commodty futures markets.

ERNEST RALPH SASSCER, EPQ; Washington, D. C.: For inspirational leadership in planning, organizing, and directing the Department's activites against the entry and spread of plant pests, thereby adding to the Department's prestige at home and abroad.

DR. R. W. TRULLINGER, OES; Washington, D. C.: For vision and leadership in research administration which has been a vital force in fostering strong, Federal-State relationships and in achieving an efficient, well-coordinated total agricultural research program.

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Our honor awards

AS IS customary, this, the first issue of *USDA* to appear after the Honor Awards ceremony, held in Washington, D. C., on May 19, carries the names of the winners of the Distinguished Service Awards, the Superior Service Awards, as well as the awards to employees with 40 or more years of service. This was the seventh annual presentation ceremony, and it has gained prestige with the succeeding years. During the years of 1947 to 1952, inclusive, the Department has conferred Distinguished Service Awards to 33 persons and 10 groups; Superior Service Awards to 384 persons and 70 groups; and 362 length-of-service awards. Senator Aiken paid tribute to good Federal employees at the ceremony.

ANIMAL FAT OXIDATION UNIT, AIC; Wyndmoor, Pa.: For research which led to the large scale commercial development of epoxidized fatty products which are superior stabilizing plasticizers derived from domestic fats.

PROJECT ON THE ACTION OF DIISOPROPYL FLUOROPHOSPHATE (DEP) ON ESTEROLYTIC ENZYMES, AIC; Albany, Calif.: For outstanding research contributions to agricultural chemistry science and defense effort through the discovery of the manner in which the war, gas, DFP, and related insecticidal analogues inhibit susceptible esterolytic enzymes.

Weedeating beetles

The shiny, dark blue-green insect that resembles a ladybird beetle is doing a good job of controlling the noxious Klamath weed in California and southern Oregon and is now becoming established in Idaho. This beetle, introduced from Australia some years ago, has already controlled the Klamath weed on more than 100,000 acres in Humboldt County, Calif. This natural control program is the first of its kind in the United States and is being carried on cooperatively between USDA's Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and the University of California Division of Biological Control.

Superior service

EMORY D. ALEXANDER, EXT; Athens, Ga.: For unusual ability and effective cooperative effort in agronomy extension work; for greatly improving agriculture through better pastures, soil conservation, better seed, and increased yields of farm crops.

JOHN P. ANDERSEN, FHA; Watonga, Okla.: For the development and effective application of a countywide master agricultural plan which serves as a reliable guide for FHA borrower farm planning and loan making and for related superior accomplishments.

AARON E. ANDERSON, BAE; Lincoln, Nebr.: For exceptional accomplishments as State statistician for Nebraska in developing and promoting a better crop and livestock reporting service designed to meet the needs of his State.

ANNA L. ANDERSON, EXT; Okmulgee County, Okla.: For meritorious service to Negro farm families; through her leadership in promoting programs of home food production, health and housing, the living conditions of her people have been greatly improved.

JESSIE D. ARMBRUSTER, REA; Cherokee, Iowa: For meritorious performance of a field auditor and examiner, and for exceptional leadership and initiative far beyond normal requirements in solving new and complex accounting problems of borrowers and in developing effective training material for agency examiners.

ROBERT P. BEACH, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For meritorious leadership and administration in budget formulation, presentation and execution in the Production and Marketing Administration.

LAURENCE A. BEVAN, EXT; Durham, N. H.: For leadership and notable service in the development of a national extension program in marketing and in the establishment of a New England consumer education program which has become a model for other sections of the country.

CHARLES B. BISBEE, SCS; Waterville, Wash.: For establishing an exemplary record in assisting the Douglas Soil Conservation District in Washington to carry out a soil and water conservation program on a vast highly erodible wheat growing area.

CECIL J. BORUM, BAE; Lansing, Mich.: For maintaining the highest standards of technical competence and good management in the conduct of the Federal-State crop reporting services in Michigan; and for the inspiring guidance and training of his technical and clerical assistants.

JOHN S. BOWEN, FS; Portland, Oreg.: For excellent work and exceptional accomplishments in the organization and coordination of the accident-prevention program in the Pacific Northwest region of the Forest Service.

JULIAN BROWN, FHA; Montgomery, Ala.: For meritorious service to low-income Alabama farm families in assisting them to establish improved farming systems, methods, and practices resulting in greater production, more security and better family living.

ROGER QUINCY BROWN, EXT; Charleston, Mo.: For meritorious leadership and initiative in developing a program of crop production involving significantly important cultural and economic farm practices.

STANLEY J. BROWNELL, EXT; Ithaca, N. Y.: For effective leadership in the field of animal and dairy husbandry and meritorious services to the welfare of the dairy industry resulting in better standards of living among farm families.

NORMA M. BRUMBAUGH, EXT; Stillwater, Okla.: For superior service in developing a program for the improvement of rural life. Her exceptional leadership, initiative, organizational ability and sustained enthusiasm have helped to build self-reliant rural leaders.

JAMES W. BURCH, EXT; Columbia, Mo.: For superior leadership in organizing and administering a successful unified program of farm and home improvement through coordination and integration of educational work in production, marketing, conservation, and family living.

DR. THEODORE C. BYERLY, BAI; Beltsville, Md.: For exemplary initiative and dynamic leadership in the administration of productive research resulting in significant contributions to American agriculture through the development of more profitable methods of breeding, feeding and managing livestock and poultry.

EDNA M. CALLAHAN, EXT; Columbus, Ohio: For rare ability to teach and an uncanny knack of translating subject matter into a pattern that fits needs and interests of 4–H members; for her contribution to the democratic approach in education.

HINSON C. COLE, SCS; Price, Utah: For meritorious performance in a flood emergency situation which enabled fast and accurate appraisal of needs and speedy assembly of material, resulting in early design and letting of contracts of work.

JOE W. COOPER, FHA; Dallas, Tex.: For meritorious execution of duties, resulting in the establishment of a superior record in the farm development-farm housing field in his district.

WILLIAM C. CROW, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For meritorious leadership in the initiation, development, and prosecution of an effective program of improving marketing facilities for farm and food products which has resulted in reductions of millions of dollars in food marketing costs, less deterioration and spoilage, and increased outlets for farm products.

GRADY B. CROWE, BAE; Stoneville, Miss.: For meritorious research on economic problems of cotton mechanization, which has contributed significantly to a better understanding of and solution to the problems of mechanizing cotton production, particularly in the Mississippi Delta area.

ELEANOR V. DE ANGELIS, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For initiation and development of original and effective visual aids enabling more uniform color comparisons in the determination of quality factors which has been a major contribution to the processed products standardization and inspection service.

DR. JOHN E. DE CAMP, BAI, Springfield, Ill.: For promoting and administering a highly successful voluntary calf vaccination program in Jersey County, Ill., which has proved the value of a hitherto unproved eradication procedure.

CLYDE W. DORAN, FS; Delta, Colo.: For skill and efficiency in conducting research in range reseeding and noxious plant control, and for successful achievement in getting research results into practice.

MILDRED A. DOSS, BAI; Beltsville, Md.: For indexing the world's literature pertaining to medical and veterinary zoology from 1936–52 and for editing and preparing for publication a second edition of the author section of the Index Catalogue of Medical and Veterinary Zoology.

LOUIS J. DUCOFF, BAE; Washington, D. C.: For envisioning and carrying out pioneering developments in research and statistics in the fields of farm labor and wages; and for redirecting lines of work in agricultural manpower to provide information for fuller utilization of farm labor.

WILBUR L. DURHAM, FHA; Jackson, Miss.: For meritorious contributions to the farm ownership insurance program through the initiation of suggestions and work methods which have resulted in increased efficiency and savings.

CLARENCE RICHARD ELDER, EXT; Ames, Iowa: For leadership in developing and coordinating information work; for initiative in organizing a college-owned radio and television station for the purpose of disseminating extension and research achievements to the public.

ARTHUR H. FRICK, EXT; Grand Rapids, Minn.: For pioneering in long-range planning, classification and zoning land, land clearing and farm forestry and for promoting farm enterprises and marketing practices best adapted to county conditions.

CARL H. GADDIS, EPQ; Lafayette, La.: For developing a method and necessary equipment for protecting sweetpotatoes in storage from losses due to sweetpotato weevil attack. This method is now used throughout the southwestern Louisiana sweetpotato industry.

SUREN R. GEVORKIANTZ, FS; St. Paul, Minn.: For unique and valuable contributions to forestry in application of statistical methods to research problems, predicting forest growth, developing composite volume tables, and forest measurements generally, always stressing simplified techniques.

EARL R. GLOVER, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For meritorious contributions to the development of PMA's marketing research activities; for unusually efficient and effective execution of the administrative functions of these activities; and for exemplary coordination between State educational agencies.

JOHN W. GOODMAN, EXT; Raleigh, N. C.: For special ability in planning and organizing extension work, securing appropriations, for excellent supervision and training of subordinates and development of high morale; for sincere and unselfish devotion to duty.

ELINORE T. GREELEY, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For improving processed Products Standardization and Inspection Division services through her contributions to the development of processed product standards and for unusual clarity in describing them to all concerned with their application.

FRANCIS L. GREEN, SCS; Bishopville, S. C.: For unusual success in helping farmers obtain a source of water for dugout reservoirs for livestock watering and irrigation purposes.

FAYE M. GRIMME, FHA; Princeton, Mo.: For exceptional ability in handling the needs of office callers, outstanding work organization, and devoted service to the Farmers Home Administration and to the community in which she lives.

HARLOW H. HALL, AIC; Peoria, Ill.: For his accomplishment of national significance in developing and stimulating prompt adoption by commercial companies, a microbiological method for producing vitamin B_{12}, thereby relieving shortages of this vitamin in feeds.

FRANCES P. HAMILTON, FHA; Goldsboro, N. C.: For meritorious service in the efficient operation of the Wayne County office under extremely difficult circumstances, and for superior accomplishments in training new personnel.

OREN H. HARDEN, FHA; Atlanta, Ga.: For meritorious service in developing and administering a program of far-reaching improvements in agriculture and rural life in southwest Georgia.

FRANCES E. HART, BAE; Little Rock, Ark.: For superior ingenuity and enterprise in managing statistical-clerical operations in face of curtailed work force; and for her stimulating influence and ability to capture and hold staff interest in maintaining high output.

DR. CARL P. HARTLEY, PISAE; Beltsville, Md.: For his meritorious contributions to forest management practices and forest products conservation through his productive research and research leadership.

BESSIE P. HAWKINS, FHA; Charleston, Miss.: For meritorious service to agriculture and rural life in Mississippi Delta counties and Tallahatchie County through technical guidance and inspirational leadership in improving standards of family living.

DR. FRANCIS L. D. HERCHENROEDER, BAI; New York, N. Y.: For unusual skill in developing and administering improved animal inspection and quarantine procedures at the port of New York, resulting in increased protection to the United States livestock and poultry industries.

BURT W. HEYWANG, BAI; Glendale, Ariz.: For extremely valuable and original scientific and economic contributions to fundamental knowledge and practice of poultry nutrition research concerned with feeding of cottonseed meal to poultry, and for devotion to duty under unusual circumstances.

JULIAN P. HICKS, PMA; Atlanta, Ga.: For meritorious accomplishments in the field of investigation resulting in substantial savings and recoveries to the Government and the bringing about of a higher degree of compliance with CCC-PMA programs.

JOHN E. HODGE, AIC; Peoria, Ill.: For new and significant fundamental contributions to the chemistry of sugars and amines and developing therefrom a theory of the mechanism of browning reactions in concentrated foods and feeds.

MILLARD J. HORN, HNHE; Beltsville, Md.: For discovery and isolation of two amino acids; for developing microbiological methods for determination of amino acids and use of these methods to determine nutritive value of proteins in food.

HORACE M. HUNT, EXT; Harrisonville, Mo.: For leadership and creative ability in training new extension workers; exceptional skill in training leaders for furthering the extension programs, particularly balanced farming and work with rural youth.

WILBUR E. HUNTER, FHA; Oberlin, Kans.: For unusual initiative and agricultural leadership in promoting the adoption of balanced farming programs and in influencing FHA borrowers to adopt efficient livestock program systems well-suited to the area.

JOHN BYRON HURST, EXT; Enid, Okla.: For exceptional planning, organization and leadership ability in bringing better living to rural familes; for initiative and inspiration in advancing the Garfield County extension program.

DAVID A. ISLER, PISAE; Beltsville, Md.: For his contribution to the development of a dual sprayer which has materially reduced the number of airplane test flights necessary to determine the proper degree of spray atomization.

ROBERT P. A. JOHNSON, FS; Madison, Wis.: For dynamic leadership in proper and effective utilization of wood; for constructive objectivity and soundness of technical contributions which bring credit to the Service and command the respect of industry.

WILLIAM B. JOHNSON, BAE; Washington, D. C.: For exceptional initiative, skill, devotion to duty, and pioneering work which resulted in successful, rapid communication of timely, complex economic information and statistics through motion pictures, television, and other visual media.

CLINTON M. JONES, SCS; Emporia, Va.: For superior accomplishments in working with farmer groups in soil conservation districts; training soil conservation service technicians; and achieving a large volume of high quality drainage work, all contributing to increased farm income.

DORIS J. KEEVIL, BDI; Washington, D. C.: For planning, successful developing, and operating the largest mechanized dairy-cattle geneological and production record system in the world.

WILLIAM P. KRAMER, FS; Washington, D. C.: For unusually valuable developments in administrative management, and for maintaining a consistently distinguished level of effective administration.

MERTON C. LANE, EPQ; Walla Walla, Wash.: For unusual leadership and ability in planning, directing, and conducting research which led to the development of practical methods of controlling wireworms in the irrigated lands of the West.

WILLIAM C. LAXTON, PERS; Washington, D. C.: For vision and leadership in developing the Department of Agriculture's classification program, which program has contributed materially to the effectiveness of the Department's personnel utilization.

C. ELEANOR LUNDE, LIB; Madison, Wis.: For exemplary performance of duties as an assistant in the branch library at Madison, Wis., and for initiative in devising work methods that result in important savings in time, materials and money both for the branch and for the patrons which it serves.

LYDIA ANN LYNDE, EXT; Washington, D. C.: For her meritorious leadership in pioneering the work in the Department of Agriculture on human relationships and the "family approach" that related all aspects of extension work to the family.

JOSE GUADALUPE MARTINEZ, FS; Taos, N. Mex.: For the heroic rescue of 4-year-old Mike Williams from the swirling waters of the Red River.

DR. FRED C. MAU, BAI; Chicago, Ill.: For promoting and administering an effective livestock disease control program at the principal livestock markets, resulting in application of uniform procedures, prompt detection of infectious diseases and prevention of their spread.

EARL MAYHEW, FHA; Lexington, Ky.: For meritorious service in developing and administering a program which has resulted in permanent improvement to Kentucky agriculture and for helping farm families attain a more satisfying and productive rural life.

ALVAN M. MCDOWELL, PMA; San Francisco, Calif.: For his contributions to the Market News Division services because of his unusual success in securing industry and marketing official cooperation, developing clear and concise reports, and for providing an incentive to other employees by exemplary performance of duties.

ANDREW W. MCKAY, FCA; Washington, D. C.: For meritorious contributions in assisting farmers to develop soundly

organized cooperative business organizations, and to operate them effectively.

JOHN M. MILLER, EPQ; Beltsville, Md.: For his contribution to the development of a dual sprayer which has materially reduced the number of airplane test flights necessary to determine the proper degree of spray atomization.

JERALD E. MILLER, FHA; Marietta, Ohio: For meritorious achievements in leadership and service to borrower families.

MADISON I. MILLER, FHA; Waverly, Ohio: For her unusual initiative and resourcefulness in continuously developing and submitting suggested improvements of FHA procedure and for the meritorious performance of her assigned duties.

JOHN W. MITCHELL, EXT; Hampton Va.: For noteworthy contribution to the development of effective and practical extension work for Negro farm families resulting in a rapid acceleration of diversified farming and improved living conditions for these families.

THEODORE L. MOELLER, PMA; Phoenix, Ariz.: For meritorious contribution to the social and economic welfare of the Arizona Indians by developing an effective conservation program for the desert area.

DOUGLAS C. MORRISON, JR., FS; Winslow, Ariz.: For unusual effectiveness in organizing, directing, and participating in the rescue of several hundred elk hunters entrapped by deep snows in the high mountain country of the Sitgreaves National Forest.

BETTY B. NANCE, FHA; Jackson, N. C.: For distinctive performance of the duties of a county clerk-typist and outstanding assistance to her supervisor in dealing with applicants and borrower families.

SAM H. NEEL, B&F; Washington, D. C.: For especially meritorious and constructive contributions to effective budgetary administration, particularly for thoroughness in analyses of the substantive and budgetary aspects and implications of problems involving important Department programs.

HELEN NIMMO, FHA; Gainesville, Fla.: For meritorious service to family-type farmers in Florida through technical guidance in the family-living phase of the FHA program and for unusually effective leadership in employee training.

WILLIAM G. PATTERSON, SCS; Bishopville, S. C.: For unusual success in helping farmers obtain a source of water for dugout reservoirs for livestock watering and irrigation purposes.

EDWARD D. PLAYER, FHA; Kingstree, S. C.: For ably administering one of the largest county programs in South Carolina; for extensive use of private credit through insured loans; and for achieving the State's best borrower repayment record.

C. KYLE RANDALL, BAE; Washington, D. C.: For meritorious service to Administrators of agricultural programs, to Congress, to farm organizations, and to the general public in developing statistics and analyses relating to economic problems in agriculture.

ETHEL M. REGAN, EXT; Hyattsville, Md.: For unusual service to rural life, through leadership, creative and organizational ability in adapting extension programs for homemakers and youth in a rapidly changing rural-metropolitan area.

HOWARD B. RICHARDSON, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For developing basic information on factors of quality in raw cotton in relation to results in textile processing, which has improved technology throughout various branches of the cotton industry.

EDD ROBERTS, EXT; Stillwater, Okla.: For his notable contribution to the agriculture of Oklahoma in the development and promotion of "land judging" contests, designed to teach large masses of people conservation of the soil through districts.

CARL G. ROSS, FHA; Silkeston, Mo.: For providing the training, leadership and work organization necessary to enable his district to carry out simultaneously a $3,790,000 disaster loan program and regular FHA program with superior results.

RAMIRO AGOSTO RUIZ, FS; Palmer, P. R.: For devotion to administration and development of a major recreation area; unusually effective use of funds; noteworthy bilingual public-relations work; and ably administering the entire Caribbean national forests maintenance activities.

ANN EVA RUSSELL, FHA; Nashville, Tenn.: For meritorious service to rural family life in Tennessee through her inspiring leadership and effective technical advice in promoting better farm family living.

LAWRENCE F. SENGENBERGER, FHA; Denver, Colo.: For a distinctive record in the effective management of his unit, superior leadership, and outstanding devotion to duty.

DR. EUGENE S. SCHULTZ, PISAE; Beltsville, Md.: For his successful research on potato diseases which has reduced the hazard of potato growing and made more efficient and economical production of potatoes possible.

HENRY F. SHEPHERD, PERS; Washington, D. C.: For exceptional skill and originality in meeting an essential need for the improvement of supervision by creating a career development plan and a supervisor's manual for the self-improvement of those who supervise.

WALTON C. SIZEMORE, SCS; Bishopville, S. C.: For unusual success in helping farmers obtain a source of water for dugout reservoirs for livestock watering and irrigation purposes.

NORMAN S. SMITH, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For extraordinary competence, judgment and program knowledge in effectively handling complex and difficult investigative, enforcement and administrative problems which has earned him esteem among his supervisors and other Government officials.

DR. FREDERICK J. STEVENSON, PISAE; Beltsville, Md.: For his contribution to the potato industry through locating sources of resistance to destructive potato diseases and insects and by incorporating these characteristics into commercially acceptable varieties, thereby producing increased yields and establishing a more stable industry.

GEORGE STEWART, FAS; Tehran, Iran: For recognition of meritorious service to crop improvement in Iran which has contributed greatly to maintaining friendly relations with that country.

LOIS REID STEWART, EXT; Dubuque, Iowa: For exceptional abilities in building lay leadership and activating community improvement; for her keen sense of public relations; for her influence throughout the State, especially in training new agents.

JOHN RUSSELL STOKER, FHA; Denver, Colo.: For meritorious leadership and engineering services to Colorado farmers and ranchers in planning, installing and utilizing water facilities involving highly complex and difficult engineering and cost features.

MARSHALL W. STONE, EPQ; Whittier, Calif.: For unusual leadership and ability in planning, directing, and conducting research which led to the development of practical methods of controlling wireworms in the irrigated lands of the West.

DR. ERHARDT P. SYLWESTER, EXT; Ames, Iowa: For unusual leadership and service to agriculture in developing seed

testing services and for energetically conducting educational programs in the control of noxious weeds.

CALVIN TAYLOR, PMA; Springerville, Ariz.: For meritorious contribution to the social and economic welfare of the Arizona Indians by developing an effective conservation program for the desert area.

RILEY TARVER, EXT: El Reno, Okla.: For effective performance and achievement for his work with 4-H Club boys and girls, and for his contribution to agriculture in the improvement of livestock and the growing of better crops.

MARY R. THOMAS, BAE; Washington, D. C.: For exceptional enthusiasm, unusual initiative, untiring patience, quiet perseverance; for outstanding skill, tact and a rare spirit of helpfulness in rendering retirement counseling service to employees of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

LEONARD R. TRAINER, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For his contribution to the Nation's children and to agriculture by displaying the highest qualities of leadership in administering the national school lunch program and for his efforts to make a vital force in increasing the contributions of agriculture to the general welfare.

HENRY M. TSUCHIYA, AIC; Peoria, Ill.: For originality, resourcefulness and leadership in devising new methods for the production of dextran for civilian and military use in national defense.

ELIZABETH L. TUTTLE, EXT; Winston Salem, N. C.: For being a true rural leader, energetic, enthusiastic, and skilled in human relations; for exceptional planning and organization ability in developing programs significant to rural living, and for her ability to stimulate effective teamwork among all organizations.

J. IRVIN WAGONER, EXT; Greensboro, N. C.: For his great originality and unbounded energy in attaining outstanding progress in agriculture, and for his superior organizational and teaching ability in increasing the agricultural income and a better rural life in his county.

CLIFFORD J. WALDRON, REA; Washington, D. C.: For his unusual work in collecting, analyzing, and preparing information on chemical brush control to enable borrowers to obtain a more economical and effective means of controlling right-of-way clearing.

HARVEY A. WEAVER, PMA; Syracuse, N. Y.: For developing methods and techniques which have obtained increased conservation measures applied to the land per dollar of Federal funds expended, and for bringing about a better understanding of the agricultural conservation program, its objectives, and inherent potentialities.

ROBERT W. WEBB, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For developing basic information on factors of quality in raw cotton in relation to results in textile processing, which has improved technology throughout various branches of the cotton industry.

JOHN A. ZELINSKI, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For establishing an exemplary record of efficiency, economy, and effectiveness in conducting rate regulatory activities under the Packers and Stockyards Act.

CLAIMS EXAMINERS OF THE NEW YORK COMMODITY OFFICE, PMA; New York, N. Y.: For unusually efficient and expeditious handling of claims by and against the Commodity Credit Corporation which has earned outstanding relationship with and commendation from private industry.

CULPEPER-RAPPAHANNOCK WORK UNIT, SCS; Culpeper, Va.: For unusually high sustained production in farm planning, application, and facilitating activities over a period of several years.

DRAINAGE AND EARTH TESTING LABORATORY, SCS; Albuquerque, N. Mex.: For exceptional accomplishment in developing new technical material, in the enviable respect which it has gained in the service, and enhancing the Service's prestige with other governmental agencies and educational institutions.

FOOD COMPOSITION UNIT, HNHE; Washington, D. C.: For exceptional teamwork and competence in compiling and evaluating worldwide research findings on composition and nutritive value of foods and in producing the standard reference work in this field.

FORMS MANAGEMENT SECTION, OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For consistently meritorious performance in forms management and design and graphic work accomplishment; and for establishing an exemplary record for efficiency of operation which has facilitated program effectiveness.

FRUIT FLY RESEARCH LABORATORY, EPQ; Honolulu, T. H.: For effective cooperative research that materially reduced the danger of introduction of destructive fruit flies to the American mainland, by the development of new approaches to the solution of insect control problems.

IDABEL, OKLAHOMA WORK UNIT, SCS; Idabel, Okla.: For a high level of production during the fiscal year 1952 and meritorious service to agriculture and rural life in the Little River Soil Conservation District, Idabel, Okla.

INSECTICIDE DIVISION, LIVESTOCK BRANCH, PMA; Washington, D. C., and Field: For effectively administering legislation requiring registration and proper labeling on 25,000 commercial pesticides, and carrying out policies to assure safe, equitable distribution to grower and public without disrupting industry.

LEASED WIRE SECTION, OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For exemplary accomplishment in operating a wire communication network which is unequalled in service, economy, and efficiency.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., WORK UNIT, SCS; Little Rock, Ark.: For meritorious production in assisting the Lonoke-Pulaski Soil Conservation District.

MATERIEL CONTAINERS DIVISION (FOREST PROD. LAB.), FS; Madison, Wis.: For invaluable achievements in the design and development of economical, sound, timber-conserving packaging methods for the myriad military items required in peace and war.

MODOC NATIONAL FOREST, FS; Alturas, Calif.: For sustained high-level record in the field of safety, a record accomplished by the cooperation and safety-consciousness of every employee of the Modoc National Forest.

WILLS POINT, TEX., WORK UNIT, SCS; Wills Point, Tex.: For a high level of production in assisting farmers and ranchers in the Kaufman-Van Zandt Soil Conservation District.

Geese and grass

"Goosey, goosey, gander; whither dos't thou wander?" If goosey had replied that she and hundreds of others were going down to the cotton field to clean out the grass, we would have imagined ourselves in a modern Mother Goose rhyme for sure. But that is one of the modern developments on the cotton farm of Edward B. Frasier of Dos Palos, Calif., as it is told in the March 1953 issue of the Acco Press. Briefly, it takes three geese to the acre to keep down the grass. Mr. Frasier figures that a good goose does $5 worth of weeding a year, not to mention the value of edible goose flesh that is produced by this "low-cost" ration.

FunderBurk new FCIC manager

C. B. FunderBurk, general manager of the Cotton States Mutual Insurance Co. in Atlanta, Ga., was named by Secretary Benson on April 24 to serve as acting manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. He succeeds John W. Brainard, who has returned to his farming operations in Minnesota. In naming Mr. FunderBurk to this position, the Secretary said: "It is my purpose to bring about continued progressive improvement in the crop insurance program. It is a program in which farmers can help themselves." In 1953 the FCIC program will be in effect in 922 counties. It provides insurance to farmers against natural losses to their wheat, cotton, corn, flax, tobacco, beans, citrus, and multiple crops.

Length-of-service awards

EDWARD BEGLINGER, FS, Madison, Wis.; HARRY L. BLAISDELL, EPQ, Greenfield, Mass.; HAROLD L. BORDEN, FS, Winchester, Ky.; THOMAS J. BREET, BAI, Boston, Mass.; DONALD J. CAFFREY, EPQ, Washington, D. C.; DUDLEY D. CONNER, BAI, Baton Rouge, La.; MARTIN R. COOPER, BAE, Washington, D. C.; LEO E. DAVIS, BAI, Columbus, Ohio; CHARLES W. DAWSON, PISAE, Beltsville, Md.; ALFRED W. DOHR, FS, Madison, Wis.; WALT L. DUTTON, FS, Washington, D. C.; JOHN A. ECHOLS, BAI, Fort Worth, Tex.; ELMER EISENBARTH, BAI, Indianapolis, Ind.; CHALMERS T. FORSTER, PERS, Washington, D. C.; AUGUSTUS GAITHER, ARC, Beltsville, Md.; GEORGE E. GAUS, PMA, Washington, D. C.; MAE E. GILMAN, FS, Ogden, Utah; JAMES J. T. GRAHAM, PMA, Washington, D. C.; GEORGE FLIPPO GRAVATT, PISAE, Beltsville, Md.; PATRICK GROURKE, BAI, Providence, R. I.; CARL P. HARTLEY, PISAE, Beltsville, Md.; ANNA E. JENKINS, FAS, Sao Paula, Brazil; JOHN D. KELSO, PISAE, Cheyenne, Wyo.; WALTER H. LARRIMER, FS, Washington, D. C.; WILLIAM W. LAWSON, BAI, Omaha, Nebr.; JOHN V. LEIGHOU, FS, Glenwood Springs, Colo.; JOE G. LILL, PISAE, East Lansing, Mich.; EARL W. LOVERIDGE, FS, Washington, D. C.; E. ALBERT MEYER, BAI, Denver, Colo.; CHARLES E. MOORE, FS, Alamogordo, N. Mex.; MILTON D. MORRIS, FS, Pollock Pines, Calif.; ROY W. MYERS, BDI, Washington, D. C.; J. WILLIAM PARK, PMA, Washington, D. C.; ORLO A. PRATT, EPQ, Calexico, Calif.; GEORGE T. RATLIFFE, SCS, Washington, D. C.; WILLIAM J. SANDO, PISAE, Beltsville, Md.; STANLEY C. SANDERSON, FS, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho; ED R. SAUNDERS, BAI, St. Louis, Mo.; STANLEY SKIDMORE, FS, Madison, Wis.; ROBERT THUMANN, BAI, Columbus, Ohio; FRANK M. TOOMEY, BAI, New York, N. Y.; NORMAN P. TUCKER, EXT, Washington, D. C.; RICHARD T. UMHAU, PMA Washington, D. C.; LYLE B. WHITNEY, BAI, Albany, N. Y.; H. STANFORD YOHE, PMA, Washington, D. C.

New wheat grass bulletin

Crested wheat grass is being used successfully to improve the forage production of many deteriorated rangelands in the cooler and moister parts of the Southwest. It is also adapted to moderately moist sites within big sagebush and pinyon-juniper vegetational types, and throughout ponderosa pine range lands of Arizona and New Mexico. What has been learned thus far by the Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station about the possibility and practicability of planting and grazing crested wheatgrass in Arizona and New Mexico is found in Farmers' Bulletin No. 2056. Forest Service has copies.

Moth lures

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS having a hand in research for more effective insect control are persistently trying to improve traps based on the moth's age-old frenzy for the flame. They are getting along in the search for better designs of devices—electrical, mechanical, colorometric, etc.—for taking advantage of this fateful urge. John G. Taylor, a research engineer of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, in Lafayette, Ind., recently talked at the Plant Industry Station auditorium, Beltsville, Md., on some of the newer results thus obtained by Federal and State experiment station specialists.

The Bureau, for 5 years, has carried on research in cooperation with Department entomologists and others. As a result of this cooperation they have had varying degrees of success with different designs of electric lamps for estimating numbers, identifying, and destroying the hordes of crop-damaging insects and, to some extent, those of more intimate concern to man. Work of the sort has been done in Indiana, Iowa, Tennessee, and Texas on field insects (corn, tobacco, cotton, and truck), and with the Nebraska and Louisiana stations on insects attacking stored grain.

The basic killing device, as described by Taylor, is made up of parallel electric wires in an electric-lighted flat frame at right angles to the ground, adjacent wires insulated to kill bugs bridging the gap between them.

Research carried on with Indiana and Iowa in the last 2 years showed that the killing grids for corn borer moths had to have wider spaces between wires than those for houseflies (⅜ of an inch), which clogged up with the moths. One-half inch spacing killed the moths and let them fall.

Tests in Iowa of different colors of electric-lighted fluorescent-painted surfaces showed corn borer moths most attracted by sodium yellow and by the exposed part of blacklight lamps. Poorest of the fluorescent pigments was horizon blue.

In these recent experiments in Indiana and Iowa, Taylor said, the investigators have found nothing that attracts most insects better than the fluorescent 360 BL (blacklight) lamp. The florescent sunlamp approaches the blacklight in attracting insects, but for economy of catch is far behind. In a test on market garden crops near Indianapolis they used lamps of red, gold, blue, incandescent (lumiline), germicidal, sunlamp and blacklight. In these various lamp traps during comparable periods between May 17 and August 15 the experimenters' total catches of a number of kinds of insects (cutworm moths, seedcorn beetles, tarnished plant bugs, and western spotted cucumber beetles) varied from a high of 39,086 by blacklight to a low of 235 by the red lamp.

In Indiana, one 30-inch trap with two 30-watt blacklight lamps reduced the population of first generation corn borers in a 4-acre area of a 40-acre sweetcorn field by 30.7 percent. In a second test they obtained a 64.4 percent reduction in infestation with a single such trap over a 4-acre area of a 12-acre sweetcorn field.

The large moths of tobacco and tomato horn worms are attracted most by ultraviolet light. Tests by the Bureau's Dr. O. A. Brown in North Carolina showed the best trap for these two similar insects was a mechanical type (no electrified grid) with two 40-watt blacklight lamps in front of a solid backboard against which the big moths (often mistaken for humming birds) stunned themselves at the end of their fast flight and fell into a collecting box below. A fluorescent signal green pigment proved the best background color for attracting these moths. But results, Taylor said, have not been consistent enough to justify the entomologists and engineers making definite recommendations for lights and traps for control of hornworms.

Tests of light traps for the pink bollworm of cotton, now in 6 of the Cotton States, according to Taylor, have provided much information. So far, he said, it appears that one of the most promising uses of the electric trap in working toward control of cotton insects is in getting information on migration.

Lit cites on land ownership

Bibliographical Bulletin No. 22 which has in it 2,969 annotated literature citations on land ownership is now off the press. Copies are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, at 70 cents each.

Two SCS men pass away

Franklin E. Fitzgerald, head of the Section of Visual Information in Soil Conservation Service, died after a brief illness on March 29 at his home in Alexandria, Va. He had been with the Service since 1948. He was a native of Daytona Beach, Fla.

Eric A. Johnson, technical editor for the SCS, died suddenly at his home in Bethesda, Md., on March 28. He had worked for the Department nearly 35 years and with SCS since 1946. His home was in Massachusetts.

Employee awards

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Bureau of Agricultural Economics: WENDELL CALHOUN, agricultural economist (Marketing Research), Berkeley, Calif.; MARGARET HUSBAND, clerk-stenographer, Denver, Colo.

Farmers Home Administration: DOROTHY H. Moss, secretary (stenography), Harrisburg, Pa.

Forest Service: BERT A. BEALEY, forester (administration), Kalispell, Mont.; GEORGE M. BYRAM, physicist, Asheville, N. C.; MARJORIE M. CUSHMAN, cartographic draftsman, Berkeley, Calif.; WALLACE L. FONS, physicist, Berkeley, Calif.; HERBERT C. GRANHOLM, fire control aide (general), San Francisco, Calif.; RUTH BUSH JONES, information specialist, Albuquerque, N. Mex.; HENRIETTA E. MCGUIRE, clerk, Winslow, Ariz.; GEORGE L. NICHOLS, architectural engineer, Ogden, Utah; ROBERT J. OSWALD, clerk, Steamboat Springs, Colo.; BARRY C. PARK, range conservationist, Billings, Mont.; RALPH A. SHULL, administrative officer, New Orleans, La.

Office of Personnel: MARION R. ROBERTSON, clerk, Washington, D. C.; THOMAS T. TOWNSEND, administrative officer, Washington, D. C.

Production and Marketing Administration: JULIA J. ALLEN, analytical statistician, Washington, D. C.; ROBERT P. BEACH, Chief, Office of the Budget, Washington, D. C.; FEDERICK J. BOHLING, accountant, Minneapolis, Minn.; KENNETH L. BOOZ, administrative officer (chief), Manhattan, Kans.; WILLIAM C. CROW, Director, Marketing and Facilities Research, Washington, D. C.; CHARLOTTE B. CULLEN, clerk-(stenographer), New York, N. Y.; ELEANOR V. DEANGELIS, scientific illustrator, Washington, D. C.; MARY H. DOWNEY, secretary (stenographer), Washington, D. C.; JOSEPH E. ELSTNER, grain inspection supervisor, Kansas City, Mo.; LOIS L. GARDINER, statistical assistant, Washington, D. C.; EARL R. GLOVER, agricultural economist (Marketing Research), Washington, D. C.; ELINORE T. GREELEY, marketing specialist, Washington, D. C.; EDWARD L. GRIFFIN, Technologist (Program Administration), Washington, D. C.; SIDNEY N. GUBIN, staff assistant, Washington, D. C.; FOREST J. HALL, information specialist, Washington, D. C.; EDWARD M. HARWELL, agricultural marketing specialist (facilities), Washington, D. C.; ALMON F. HEALD, executive officer, Burlington, Vt.; PAUL L. HIGLEY, information specialist, San Francisco, Calif.; ERNEST R. JOHNSON, dairy and poultry products grader, Seattle, Wash.; KATHRYN E. KELLEY, clerk, Minneapolis, Minn.; THELMA T. LANEY, clerk (stenography), Dallas, Tex.; RUTH LINKLATER, administrative assistant, Portland, Oreg.; JIMMIE W. MIZE, Government accountant, Dallas, Tex.; EMMA B. NANCE, home economist, Dallas, Tex.; RHODA E. PHILLIPS, clerk-typist, New York, N. Y.; HOWARD B. RICHARDSON, cotton technologist, Washington, D. C.; ANNETTE C. SCHNELL, administrative assistant, Chicago, Ill.; EDGAR C. SHAFFER, chief, administrative assistant, Salt Lake City, Utah; CECIL E. SULLIVAN, Government accountant (chief), Chicago, Ill.; CHARLES W. SULLIVAN, administrative officer, Jackson, Miss.; CALVIN TAYLOR, farmer fieldman, Phoenix, Ariz.; LEONARD R. TRAINER, administrative officer, Washington, D. C.; HARVEY A. WEAVER, administrative assistant (fieldman), Syracuse, N. Y.; ROBERT W. WEBB, cotton technologist, Washington, D. C.; JOHN A. ZELINSKI, valuation engineer, Washington, D. C.

Soil Conservation Service: HORACE H. CURETON, soil conservation aide, San Fernando, Calif.; I. PRESTON ISAACS, soil conservation aide, Annapolis, Md.; HARRY S. LEASURE, soil conservationist (operations), Washington County, Md.; WAYNE D. WAVRIN, agricultural engineer, Hot Springs, S. Dak.

Cash Awards for Efficiency (authorized by Public Law 429):

Farmers Home Administration: Group Award of $400—J. J. ANASTASIO, Washington, D. C. received $50; W. H. BARNETT, Montgomery, Ala., $25; JAMES FORSYTHE, Dallas, Tex., $25; W. M. LAKAS, Denver, Colo., $25; R. G. MCINTYRE, Washington, D. C., $150; M. L. NORTHCUTT, St. Louis, Mo., $25; C. C. POLLOCK, St. Louis, Mo., $25; JOE REDDINGTON, Montgomery, Ala., $25; LARRY SENENBERGER, Denver Colo., $25; MAX ULERY, Dallas, Tex., $25.

Cash Awards for Suggestions (authorized by Public Law 600—cases in excess of $100):

Bureau of Animal Industry: JAMES F. CLABBY, Waterloo, Iowa, $250.

Entomology and Plant Quarantine: OLIVER O. STOUT, Honolulu, T. H., $250.

Production and Marketing Administration: JACK L. BEIGUN, Chicago, Ill., $205; HELEN PARSONS, Kansas City, Mo., $130; BENNETT H. STAMPES, JR., Dallas, Tex., $120.

Of kings and insects

INSECTS THAT emulate an ancient king of Pontus by building up resistance to poison will be subjected to revealing tests with radio-active insecticides to find out just how they become tolerant to certain of the new insecticides. F. H. Babers, of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, is readying equipment at the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, Md., to apply radio-active insecticides to resistant insects such as houseflies and roaches. Photographic plates and other radiation detection instruments will give progressive pictures of the penetration and absorption of the insecticide. They will show its route into and through the insect's body, nervous and digestive system, and its final excretion from or storage in the insect's body. A. W. Lindquist, at the Bureau's laboratory in Corvallis, Oreg., did pioneer work in this field.

Mithridates VI, king of Pontus before the Christian era, when kings led hazardous lives, reputedly took increasingly larger doses of poisons "from the many-venomed earth" until he could eat poisoned food and drink poisoned wine unharmed. A. E. Housman, who tells the story in one of his *Shropshire Lad* poems, adds succintly, "Mithridates, he died old." Some mosquitoes, houseflies, roaches, and other insects are dying old even when kept in cages literally encrusted with DDT. They are going the ancient king one better by passing along their resistance to their offspring.

Machine-age hazards

"THE MATTER of personal safety on and off the job gets more technical every day, as the world becomes more and more crowded with complicated machinery, instruments—and *people*." This opinion was expressed recently by Alvin C. Watson, Assistant Regional Director of the Soil Conservation Service, in an address at State College, Pennsylvania. "A growing phase of our working habits," he said, "is to keep these complications from hurting us, other people, equipment and our chances of doing our work efficiently. As public servants, we have extra, legal and economic obligations to *play it safe*. To do so, we've got to use every technique of education, supervision, training and knowledge available.

"Injuries in SCS field work," he explained, "usually result from slipping, tripping, or falling over obstacles. Climbing over fences, or jumping a fence or an obstacle has caused serious injury. The remedy is usually common sense, and occasionally special equipment. . . . Let's not forget hazards with livestock. For example, you just don't take chances of any kind with a bull, anywhere."

"All of us need to drive an automobile or truck in our work," Mr. Watson said, "and most of us drive a passenger vehicle in connection with our personal affairs. The creation of automobiles was wonderful, but the people who use them have also created a sad and perplexing story. Eighty-six percent of all the fatalities (resulting from automotive accidents) have been caused by human errors. Carelessness, intolerence, and lack of respect for authority have been contributing factors. There are also just 'plain' poor drivers. But accidents are not confined to the 'amateur' because the professional drivers, such as bus and truck drivers, have their share too. . . .

"Now, *safe* drivers recognize that the most dangerous, unknown quantity is the *other* driver. Constant watchfulness for the unexpected thing—for mixed-up or exicited driving behavior—is a matter of great importance, as I look back over about 35 years' experience with all sorts of motor vehicles. And I think we are all familiar with persons who are very lovely and courteous in their homes or gardens but, 'demons' behind the wheel. It seems to me that our attitude—and that's 90 percent of safety success—on this question of driving a vehicle must be positive."

Electronic colorimeter

RAW COTTON color has been measured in the U. S. Department of Agriculture in connection with standards for grades for several years. In early years, a visual disk colorimeter was used, but this proved inadequate and in 1950 a new automatic, photoelectric instrument was developed in the color laboratory of the Cotton Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. The work was done by Miss Dorothy Nickerson and R. S. Hunter, then chief optical engineer of the Gardner Laboratory, which manufactures the colorimeter.

But now, instead of the single trial instrument of 1950, there are more than 40 in use by 1953 at the Cotton Branch classing rooms, and by mills, shippers, and arbitration boards here and abroad. The instrument is based on the complex principles of "tristimulus colorimetry." The colorimeter averages the color of a sample of cotton about 4 x 4 inches in size. Results are indicated directly on the instrument in terms of reflectance and degree of yellowness. A diagram is superimposed on the scales which shows the average measurements of color of the cotton used in the standards for grade.

The perfected machine is electronic, self-standardizing, and automatically indicating. Unlike many colorimeters which require operation by a skilled laboratory technician, this one is designed to be used in the classing room by the cotton classer. Like a television set, it can be tuned for efficient use in a fairly simple way. Thus it can be expected to give satisfactory service in the hands of an intelligent operator—particularly if he is a good judge of cotton. A second published report on this instrument has been issued by the Cotton Branch under the heading "Color Measurements of Cotton," 38 pages processed.

Miss Nickerson has been with the Department since 1927, when she came to work on color standardization problems of hay, feed, and seed as well as cotton. In the early years color science was in its own infancy, and much of her early work was devoted to finding ways to put the color work itself on a firm foundation so that color measurements, whether of cotton, hay, meats, fruits and vegetables, or other agricultural products, could be made in our own laboratories on a basis so well standardized that it would be understood and accepted internationally.

Color science has gone a long way in the past 25 years, and some part of the credit goes to the early work done by Miss Nickerson in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Much of this work has been reported in the Journal of the Optical Society of America, as well as in Department publications.

Miss Nickerson is an active member of several scientific and professional groups working with color. For 14 years she served as secretary of the Inter-Society Color Council; since 1933 she has been a member of the Colorimetry Committee of the Optical Society of America; she is a member of the U. S. National Committee on Colorimetry of the International Commission on Illumination; and is chairman this year of a subcommittee of the Illuminating Engineering technical committee groups. In 1951 she was given a Superior Service Award and medal by the Department of Agriculture "for notable contributions to the development and application of the new automatic colorimeter for cotton."

Brief and choice

Mary Forbes Smith retires

Mrs. Mary Forbes Smith retired from the Office of Information on April 30. Mrs. Smith had been with the Department 31½ years, 3 of them with the Agricultural Experiment Station in Honolulu. Born and educated in Birmingham, Ala., Mrs. Smith is author of "The Alabaster Box," a published book of poems. She is also a composer of music. She is a member of the Writers' League of Washington, and following retirement will pursue her interests there. Mrs. Smith will continue to live in Mount Rainier, Md.

Summer variety

In announcing its summer schedule of classes to begin June 1, the USDA Graduate School says it will offer fewer courses this summer, but there will be variety. A new course in parliamentary procedure is being offered which is intended to "give you added interest and more confidence at your social or business meetings." Review courses are offered in calculus, Russian, and Gregg shorthand as well as conversational French, Spanish, and German. If you have trouble figuring interest, insurance, taxes, social security, and the like, a review course will be given in everyday mathematics which might help you. Noncredit courses will be given this summer in photography, pencil sketching and water color painting. Registration begins May 23.

Service—44 years of it

Robert L. Kause, a senior specialist in cotton classing, retired April 30, 1953, after 44 years with the Department of Agriculture. He started with the cotton project when the work was under the direction of Dr. N. A. Cobb of the Bureau of Plant Industry and occupied a small building just west of the present west wing of the Administration Building. Mr. Kause was the senior employee, in years of service in the Cotton Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration. Born in Dayton, Ohio, Mr. Kause entered the employ of the Department in 1909, and attended George Washington University, graduating with a B. S. in civil engineering. He plans to remain in Washington, D. C.

Group land drainage

AT REQUEST of farmers and ranchers who want wet lands drained for greater land capability, the field men of the Soil Conservation Service perform desired technical services in the existing soil conservation districts. These group jobs often involve several farms, with the work done by landowners or operators or by contractors. The original plans by SCS engineers specify the kind of construction and maintenance desired for success. The net effect on wildlife habitat is always a point involved in an all-round conservation-drainage job.

According to the Records and Reports Division of SCS, in 1952, a total of 1,344 group drainage jobs were laid out to benefit about 630,000 acres in soil conservation districts with SCS technical aid. The estimated cost was nearly 4 million dollars, with SCS performing services worth about 7.5 percent of the overhead cost.

Completed jobs were recorded that year for 1,130 groups to benefit about 522,000 acres on all or part or 6,925 farms. On a cumulative basis, this brought the total area benefited by these completed jobs to 4,256,413 acres. SCS technical costs on 7,475 completed group drainage jobs as of last December 31 ran about 8.4 percent of total costs. Farmer-district cooperators who derive the benefit from the drainage work pay the construction costs.

It has been feasible to use the outlets provided by the group drainage channels for additional field or farm drainage on individual farms. Better land use and erosion control are thereby secured. For the most part where the drainage is well done and successful, its results have been effective in the rehabilitation of agricultural land for productive use. It is not merely opening up new land for cultivation, but renders entire farms easier to operate and more profitable.

Use the payroll bond buying plan

MAY 20, 1953, Vol. XII, No. 10

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR JUNE 3, 1953

A word with employees

SECRETARY BENSON discussed executive-legislative relations and the responsibilities of employees before the Graduate School on April 30. Excerpts from his address—of which copies are available—are added herewith:

It is now a hundred days since I assumed my duties here in the Department of Agriculture. In these hundred days, my respect and admiration for the employees of this great Department have steadily increased. I say "increased," because I want to make it plain that long before January 20th, I had learned that this Department stands for something special in American life—and that its employees are exceptional both in capability and in their unselfish devotion to duty.

There is no other department of the Government in which I would even have considered taking such a position as I now occupy—had it been offered to me. As I told the President, no salary in the world could induce me to take this job. But the possibilities for service presented by working alongside the devoted men and women of this Department—the potentialities for serving the welfare of agriculture and the well-being of all our people—these were the most important factors in my decision.

Despite the headaches and the heartaches—and I have had my share these past hundred days—I am glad to be here. With your support and cooperation we are going to serve American agriculture—and this Nation that we love—to the utmost of our ability.

I commend the Graduate School most sincerely for establishing these lectures in public administration. Through this series of lectures, we pay a richly deserved tribute to the memory of the late William A. Jump and I. Thomas McKillop.

In paying our respects to William Jump and Thomas McKillop, we are at the same time recognizing the high level of service rendered by all the competent and loyal employees of the Department of Agriculture.

Efficient organization is essential to good administration. Here, again, the legislative and executive branches of government share joint interest. The Congress usually determines the broad outlines of organization and, by specific action, grants authority to the executive to effect reorganization of the administrative structure. The Congress now has before it Reorganization Plan No. 2. This plan is designed to simplify and improve the internal organization of the Department. It would permit the establishment of a clear line of responsibility and authority from the President, through the Secretary, and along throughout the Department. I believe this reorganization plan would make possible greater efficiency and smaller expenditures.

The principles and practices that I hope will be observed by all employees of the Department of Agriculture can be briefly stated as follows:

We will recognize and respect the interest of the Congress in the administration of programs assigned to us. And we will not question the good faith of the Congress in its manifestations of that interest.

In the administration of our programs, we will observe the fact that, by constitutional provision, the final policy decisions of this government are made by the Congress. We shall strive forthrightly and honestly to carry out the decisions of the Congress. When we have suggestions or requests to make, or criticisms to offer, we shall take them to the Congress in good faith. And we shall stand ready at all times to respond to requests from the Congress for information or assistance.

We shall respect the right of the Congress to know what this Department is doing at any time. We shall remember that the Congress is not only interested in receiving reports of our stewardship; it is entitled to them—and in time to act upon them.

We shall exercise with care and equity the rule-making authority vested in the Department by the Congress. This authority will be used only in furthering the understood intent of the Congress.

When we make mistakes, we shall honestly acknowledge them and assume full responsibility for them. Certainly they are not to be blamed on the Congress.

We shall communicate to the Congress through appropriate channels our estimates of needs, as we sense it, in order that we might more effectively carry out the responsibilities with which we are charged.

We shall strive always for the advancement of American agriculture in the public interest; and we shall carefully avoid all danger of serving as agents of selfish groups seeking special privileges.

We shall keep the welfare of the people—*all* of the people—uppermost in our minds at all times. The supreme test of our actions shall be: How will this affect the character, morale, and well-being of the people?

Observance of these principles and practices will, I believe, make for good legislative-executive relationships in our Government system. The legislative and executive branches of this Government consist of groups of sincere, hard-working men and women charged with heavy responsibilities. We must all work together to do our job effectively.

For oldtimers

It is good to note that the USDA Club of Atlanta, Ga., makes a practice of inviting retired employees to accept honorary membership and a lifetime membership card.

Staff meetings

COMMON PROBLEMS of a work unit are often solved through pooling the ideas and opinions of our employees in a staff meeting called by the supervisor. Ways to make staff meetings more useful and constructive are important objectives of Department workers. Some new thoughts about staff meeting goals have been drawn up as part of the supervision and management series issued by the former Federal Security Agency. Extra copies of this 4-page discussion sheet have been rerun by Office of Personnel.

Staff meetings succeed best, it is found, when two major purposes are followed: To give instruction or give and exchange information; and to permit the group to consider common problems affecting them all. A few reasons why staff meetings sometime fail dismally are listed.

Instead of asking the group "What should we do?" the supervisor should clearly state the problem and give the alternatives, and then ask "What do you people think is the best answer?"

The problem advanced may be of a kind that requires considerable study and factfinding that a group as a whole can't very well handle.

The staff may not have had a chance to think about the problem before the staff meeting, or the necessary preliminary work may not have been done.

The group may doubt the supervisor's sincerity in asking for their ideas. They may suspect that he is trying to "sell" them a plan by seeming to consult them about it. He may have failed to convince them that he likes independent thinking, even if the group's ideas do not agree with his own.

The supervisor may not lead the discussion well enough. He may talk too much about his own ideas or fail to keep attention focused on the main problem. And finally, it is stated that while regularly scheduled staff meetings are preferred, it is better to skip a meeting once in awhile when there is no real need to hold one.

Checking mailing lists

In a memo to agency heads, Richard D. Aplin, director, Departmental Administration, stresses proper revision procedures in the matter of mailing lists. He cites a circular letter issued by a Department agency where in it was stated "if we do not hear from you, we shall assume that you wish to remain on our mailing list." Mr. Aplin emphasizes that this is a violation of regulations. The addressee must indicate a positive desire to receive such material, or otherwise his name is automatically dropped. See guides for circularization of mailing lists in title 3, paragraph 75, of the USDA regulations.

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Dollars-and-cents check

RESEARCH IN the economics of soil conservation is beginning to reveal important benefits from the all-over-the farm type of conservation. It points the way to improvements in farm planning. It gives farmers and conservation technicians something definite to work with in planning to improve the farmer's economic condition as well as his land.

An example of this type of research is the study on the dollar-and-cents results of soil conservation made in Illinois during 1952, by the University of Illinois and the Soil Conservation Service cooperating.

On the Illinois farms studied, conservation costs varied from $20 to $50 per acre, with limestone, phosphate, potash and other fertilizers approximating 75 to 85 percent of the out-of-pocket costs of establishing a conservation program. The 10-year average net farm earnings of farms with conservation plans were $6.26 an acre a year higher than those on matched physically comparable farms not having such plans. This increase in income was approximately $1,000 a year for a 160-acre farm. Changes in income varied with the condition of the farm when the program started, the speed at which the program was applied, the amounts and kinds of fertilizers used, the weather, and the management of the owner and operator.

It was found that conservation and improvement practices, such as contouring and fertilization, generally increase production and income the first year. If the land is badly eroded and depleted, however, a considerable amount of effort, money and time must be expended in order to build up productivity and earning power to a high level.

Profits from growing all crops, including forage and pasture, were shown to be directly related to yields. Detailed farm cost accounting studies showed that, with corn at $1.50 per bushel and on land valued at $200 an acre, it takes a production of 40 bushels per acre just to "break even." As the price of corn drops, larger yields are necessary. The use of soil conservation and improvement practices to increase yields is thus particularly important when prices decline and production costs remain relatively fixed. Investment in a conservation program paid dividends on most of the farms studied. On some farms it changed the farm business from a losing to a paying proposition.

A special study was made to determine the results of soil conservation on the slowly permeable soils of northeastern Illinois, where plans called for 40 percent of the cropland to be converted to meadow. Sixty high-conservation farms were compared with the same number of low-conservation farms. The study revealed that the high-conservation farms spent 74 cents per acre more for soil fertility, and had 36 percent of their tillable land in hay and rotation pasture compared with 22 percent for the others. Corn yield from the high-conservation farms was 10 bushels per acre greater, and net income per acre was $5.28 greater as compared with earnings on the farms without conservation.

The total difference in net income between the high-conservation and low-conservation farms in this slowly permeable area for 5 years was $32.98 an acre. This 5-year difference in favor of conservation farming totaled $7,915 for the average-sized 240-acre farm—a boon to farmers in this "difficult" area where a few years ago they did not know what to do to improve their land and their earnings.

Cash awards in BAI

CASH AWARDS to the following people for their suggestions submitted during the period January 1 to March 31, 1953, were granted by the Bureau of Animal Industry Efficiency Awards Committee:

RAYMOND M. MICHAEL, JR., Meat Inspection, $50; ERNEST E. NORRIS, Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Division, $25; E. D. GARRETT, Meat Inspection, $25; RICHARD ARMON and ROBERT GRAYSON (joint suggestion), Meat Inspection, $40; J. O. ABBOTT, Meat Inspection, $25; and WILLIAM M. LONG, Pathological Division, $25.

Shoals of scholars

More than 100,000 Federal employees have attended classes at the USDA Graduate School since it was established in 1921. Since 1946 more than 7,000 employees have taken GS courses in public administration.

Statistician dies

Herman A. Swedlund, agricultural statistician in charge of the office for the State of Washington, died suddenly late in February. Born in Colorado in 1906, Mr. Swedlund began work with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in 1933, where he served in statistical lines in several of the Western States.

Flameproof THPC

The "THPC process" applied to cotton fabrics by conventional methods provide excellent flameproofing qualities that last after more than 15 launderings. This development in cooperation with the Army Quartermaster Corps comes from the Southern Regional Research Laboratory at New Orleans. The process of manufacture of this flameproof chemical is inexpensive by a technique feasible in commercial production. Wilson A. Reeves and John D. Guthrie, Cotton chemical Processing Division, did this work.

Nelsen heads REA

ANCHER NELSEN, Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration has operated a diversified 280-acre farm near Hutchinson, Minn., since 1924. He has long been active in 4–H club work, the Farm Bureau, and farmers' cooperative affairs.

Mr. Nelsen helped organize the McLeod Cooperative Power Association at Glencoe, Minn., of which he is a director and vice president. He has also been vice president of the Minnesota Electric Cooperative and a director of the local Farmers' Cooperative Elevator Association. He has been president of his local Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, and of the Minnesota Association of Mutual Insurance Companies.

In 1935 Mr. Nelsen was elected to serve as State Senator in the Minnesota Legislature and was reelected to this post biennially until 1948. In November 1952 he was elected Lieutenant Governor. While a member of the State Legislature, Mr. Nelsen took an active interest in legislation pertaining to markets and marketing, dairy products, and livestock. In addition, he has represented the Minnesota dairy industries committee at Congressional hearings in Washington. He has also been active in conservation organizations. The new REA administrator was born on a farm in Renville County, Minn., on October 11, 1904. In 1929 he married Ilo Zimmerman of Brownton, Minn. They have three children.

At his first public appearance before REA employees, Mr. Nelsen said:

I want to compliment the staff of REA on the job you have done. You have helped make farming a desirable occupation, the farm a desirable place to live.

You have an obligation to make careful, conscientious investment of Uncle Sam's dollar. We have a responsibility to the farmer. We have a greater responsibility to the United States. The most important present consideration is the economic stability of the United States.

I do not care about your politics or your religion, your creed or your color. If you are doing a good job, and doing it well, that's all that counts to REA. And you are doing a good job.

If you want to visit me, you will find that I am easy to talk to. You can give us the best you've got, and I'll give you the best I've got.

Checking the contents

To cut out misrepresentation and save loss and waste, the Standard Containers Acts of 1916 and 1928 were passed by Congress. During the past fiscal year, the Fruit and Vegetable Branch of Production and Marketing Administration examined 1,925 samples of 293 types and sizes of fruit and vegetable containers. They found 69 that needed correction and of these 58 were corrected by the year's end. Cutting berry box sizes from the 44 in former use down to 3 standard sizes today is one result.

Rainfall under trees

HOW FORESTS conserve rainfall by concentrating falling water where conditions are ideal for its entry and storage has been an old argument made in behalf of suitable forest cover and fire prevention. However, one of the Forest Service's associated experiment stations—the Southeast Forest Experiment Station, Asheville, N. C.—has issued a study on the interception of rainfall on a young loblolly pine stand which uses language that any grade pupil could understand—to tell the same old story in a way that sticks.

Foresters tell you that the net rainfall that reaches the ground under a tree canopy is made up of two parts—the portion which is led straight down the trunk or main stem, known as "stemflow"; and that which falls through the leaves or drips from the twigs, called "throughfall." Another part of each rainfall is caught and stored in the leaves and branches before they become saturated, and this is eventually evaporated. It is this holding process and the water thus dissipated that foresters know as "interception." Naturally, the arrangement of the foliage and its density varies with the species, and what is found with regard to loblolly pine is not usually indicative of the net rainfall beneath tree stands of other species.

The pine tract studied for net rainfall measurement grew from 1-year seedlings planted in 1941. There were 760 trees per acre with a breast-high diameter of about 5 inches and average height of 31 feet. The total projected crown area, based on sample trees, was over 25,000 square feet per acre. This indicated that only 58 percent of the ground surface in the plantation was directly below the tree crowns. Gages were used to measure rainfall through the tree canopy and also in the open. Stemflow was diverted and measured on enough trees for a sample on which to base calculations.

Less than expected interception of rainfall occurred in the tests. This resulted in the conclusion that on an annual basis the net rainfall averaged about 86 percent of the rain that fell on the open ground beyond the tree canopy. Even less than the percentage intercepted beneath the trees occurred during heavy rains. The foresters found that reduction in surface runoff in this case is not due to intercepted rain but to improved conditions for intake of water in the soil. Much of the rainfall reaches the ground as flow down the stems. But where fire removes the protective ground litter at the base of trees the stemflow water often becomes surface runoff. And finally, the stemflow makes more water available to the trees than would be the case if rain reached the soil with uniform distribution.

Readers' reminders

REA bulletins

Rural Electrification Administration has a general list of its publications of a nontechnical nature which are available without charge. Most of the titles are devoted to subjects on electric farming and consumer relations. Requests for the current lists should be sent direct to REA here.

Dramatic cicadas

No other insect in North America excites the wonder and causes the misconceptions that mark the springtime appearance of the cicadas or "17-year locusts." Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine have issued a circular dated May 1953 to instruct observers of this buzz-saw voiced invader. Copies of Leaflet No. 340, 8 pages, "The Periodical Cicada," may be had from Inquiries and Distribution Service, Office of Information.

New sugar beet varieties

Dewey Stewart, senior agronomist with the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, reports hybrids from crosses between one-seeded and multiple-seeded sugar beets that develop as one-seeded varieties which are resistant to leaf spot and possibly to black root. Designed to aid producers in the Great Lakes humid area, these hybrids give real promise. Ask *USDA* Editor for No. 985.

Mosquito mists

Recommended uses of paint sprayers and portable mist blowers against mosquito plagues in mountain summer-resort areas are set forth in a variety of ways in a new circular by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. DDT, allethrin or pyrethrum are listed among the best chemicals for residual sprays. Write BEPQ for Circular EC–26.

Urban conservation lessons

Four teaching outlines on conservation education have been prepared in a series by the Soil Conservation Service. The newest one refers to six grades of urban elementary schools. Others deal with teaching outlines in high schools and junior high schools, as well as rural elementary schools. Stress has been placed on teaching conservation in urban schools as in no other way can the social and economic significance of this subject be presented to them well. It is designed to fit into any of the numerous courses that now emphasize conservation.

Fire control notes

If you want to know more about the techniques of forest fire control, the April issue of "Fire Control Notes" by the Forest Service is now available. The table of contents includes such subjects as: Statistical fire occurrence prediction as a psychological tool in fire prevention; a portable light for fire-fighting tractors; a "Dr. Pepper" fire-reporting system; and items about Smokey Bear. Copies can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 20 cents per copy.

Brief and choice

Farm safety week

President Eisenhower's Proclamation calling upon the Nation to observe the week beginning July 19 as National Farm Safety Week marks the tenth year in which this program has been sponsored by the National Safety Council and the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with States and agricultural organizations.

Visual aids workshop

Participation in the second Federal Visual Aids Worshop, May 11–15, was extended this year to schools in the Washington metropolitan area, as well as Federal workers. It was sponsored by the Federal Personnel Council and the American University. Commercial and Governmental exhibits were arranged, with subject matter pointed toward the interests of professional visual and informational workers as well as teachers of these subjects. A nominal registration fee was charged and sessions ran both afternoons and evenings.

Payroll savings

Summaries of the Department's payroll savings plan for purchase of Government bonds indicate that for the 7 pay periods ending March 14, 1953, the percentage of the total payroll deduction was 2.8 percent. The percentage of employees participating was 31.2 percent—highest being in the Commodity Exchange Authority, at 79.5 percent. In the Department and in the field force, 16,543 employees invested under this plan.

MSA trainees busy

With nine Mutual Security Agency short courses for foreign trainees started in April, a farm radio short course begun in May, and four added courses scheduled to start in June, the extended training schedule is well under way. Besides 28 courses for foreign trainees under MSA sponsorship, 15 other short courses are being planned for those coming under Point 4. USDA and State colleges of agriculture cooperate in this activity.

USDA club doings

E. R. Draheim, Administrative Officer, Office of Personnel, asks that more items about current doings of the USDA Clubs be used in *USDA*. He promises to submit such news items from time to time and wants persons in the field to do likewise. The April issue of the "USDA Club Exchange," by Pers carries a message by Secretary Benson who said he was well aware of the worthwhile contributions which USDA Clubs are making toward improving employee's service to the public.

4–H Club camp

"Know Your Government" is the theme of the 23d National 4–H Club Camp slated for Washington, D. C., from June 17 to 24. Each State Extension Director has been asked to select four 4–H club members and two adult State leaders to attend it. Most of the meetings will be held in the Departmental Auditorium on Constitution Avenue, as the National 4–H Club Center at Chevy Chase is not yet available.

Honor USDA films

Two films produced by the Motion Pictures Service of the Department were awarded certificates of exhibition at a ceremony in the Department of the Interior lately. The films which were shown at the Edinburgh Film Festival last year are "River Run" and "The Telephone and the Farmer."

Silver beaver award

Forest Ranger Edward Engstrom, Region 3, United States Forest Service, was awarded the "silver beaver" highest honor trophy in Boy Scouting at Santa Fe, N. Mex., last month. He is commissioner of the Taos Boy Scout District and highly regarded as a leader of junior activities.

Grievance against garbage

Feeding raw garbage to livestock is a strong factor in spreading such diseases as hog cholera, trichinosis, Newcastle poultry disease, tuberculosis and erysipelas as well as swine vesicular exanthema. Get your copy of the latest digest of this subject by asking the Bureau of Animal Industry for "Raw Garbage Spreads Animal Disease."

Grain marketing ideas

W. B. Combs, extension grain marketing specialist with the Federal Extension Service, is author of a special analysis of good methods in making an extension grain marketing program effective. It's issued by the Division of Agricultural Economics in the Extension Service. It also lists the State extension specialist active in grain marketing.

YOU are the Federal service

The U. S. Civil Service Commission's publication entitled "Public Relations for Government Employees" offers some comments that point up the employee's part in agency public relations. It says that public relations is everybody's business as the acts and attitudes of employees make or break good public relations. Public relations, they remind us, is everything you do, and not just a news release, a speech, or an annual report. For copies, write Civil Service Assembly, 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago, Ill.

Electric moisture meter

The United States official grain standards determine moisture content of barley, oats and rye by the air oven method. Since its use is not always practical, electric moisture testers are commonly used instead. Revised charts based on comparisons between the air oven and the Tag-Heppenstall electric moisture meter are issued by the Grain Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration. These new charts are supplied to all licensed grain inspectors and supervisors.

Credit for farm purchases

The proportion of farm real estate purchases financed by credit stood at an 8-year high point in the year ending March 1953. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics states that the proportion of cash sales declined in all areas and at 32.5 percent of all farm sales, was the lowest since estimates started in 1946. Values of farm real estate drifted generally lower during the 4 months ending last March, the Bureau states.

IFYE sailings

The first three ship sailing dates for embarkation of United States delegates in the International Farm Youth Exchange are announced by the sponsors of the program—the National 4–H Club Foundation and the Cooperative Extension Service: June 12, from New York on the S. S. *Conte Biancamano*, 19 persons bound for Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Portugal, Switzerland, and Turkey; June 16, from Montreal aboard the S. S. *Anna Salen*, 27 persons bound for Norway and Sweden, Austria, Denmark, Finland, and Germany; June 24, from New York on the S. S. *Georgic*, 30 persons bound for Netherlands, Belgium, England, Wales, Ireland, France, Luxembourg, Scotland, and Tunisia.

Edminster transfers

Talcott W. Edminster has been transferred from Blacksburg, Va., to the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., as a project leader in agricultural engineering. Mr. Edminster received the W. A. Jump Memorial Award 2 years ago for meritorious Federal service achievements

Skidmore leaves FS

Stanley Skidmore retired from the Timber Mechanics Division, U. S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis., on April 30 after more than 40 years of service. His father, Henry Skidmore, was also a member of the Laboratory staff previously. In his work with evaluation of wood strength, Mr. Skidmore saw the Madison institution grow from a staff of 84 persons in 1917 as well as its extensive service during two World Wars.

Obsolete forms

One of the Department agencies has prepared a guide for its office managers relative to obsolete forms. Manual holders are requested to dispose of forms listed to be destroyed. Employees doing the sorting of files and stockrooms are warned to make sure they are right before discarding any materials. There are 252 pages in the document and if carefully followed should result in making more filing space available.

60,000 azaleas

Sixty thousand brilliant Glenn Dale hybrid azaleas in massive color bands along the contours of the hills of the U. S. National Arboretum in northeast Washington, D. C., attract thousands of sightseers each April. These hardy, large-flowering azaleas originate from selections made from 75,000 plants bred from diverse types, and are called a living memorial to B. Y. Morrison, formerly director of the National Arboretum and head of the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction.

Mercerized cotton test

Research workers at the Southern Regional Research Laboratory at New Orleans have perfected a new apparatus for the experimental mercerization of cotton yarn so as to foretell the types or varieties of cotton most suitable for commercial mercerization. Mercerization gives cotton permanent luster, makes it easier to dye and produces brighter and richer shades. Use of the apparatus will aid spinners, buyers and cotton breeders in getting advance knowledge of the response of various cottons to mercerization. Associated in this work are Charles F. Goldthwait, Alton L. Murphy, Idas W. Lohmann, and Herbert O. Smith.

Price support advice

When the egg industry advisory group met with USDA officials recently, they expressed almost unanimous opposition to price support, surplus removal, or subsidy programs for eggs. Instead, they urged that the industry itself continue to adjust the supply of eggs to the demand through continued improvement in efficiency of production and marketing. Similar recommendations were made by the turkey industry conference after pointing out that the 1953 production of mature heavy turkeys should be reduced about 12 to 15 percent below last season's record crop. They said that unless the turkey industry makes the necessary downward adjustment, no surplus removal program for turkeys should be considered for the 1953 crop. As a followup to these recommendations, Secretary Benson has issued a statement warning turkey growers not to depend on price supports unless they use self-discipline in holding turkey numbers in line with prospective demand.

Aamodt busy abroad

Dr. O. S. Aamodt, Point 4 technical assistance specialist for the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, is working on pasture and fodder crop development and is visiting Portugal, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Italy.

Prison uses extension circular

An Illinois Extension Service bulletin by D. M. Hall, "What, Why, How, We Share in Group Action," is being used in adult education activity carried on by the San Quentin Prison in California. Herman K. Spector, prison librarian, in requesting the publcation, said that 1,588 men were taking academic courses and some of them are organized in study groups, to whom the extension bulletin will be useful.

Heads engineering course

J. P. Schaenzer, Rural Electrification Administration, is the new chairman of the committee on engineering, Department of Technology, USDA Graduate School. He succeeds Thomas B. Chambers, who is being transferred to the Spartanburg, S. C., office of the Soil Conservation Service. As a member of the engineering committee of the Graduate School since 1949, Mr. Schaenzer with Hans S. Hoiberg developed courses in the principles of electricity and fundamentals of telephony.

Bruce to Olympic

Mason B. Bruce, Division of Timber Management, is the new manager of the Olympic National Forest in Washington State. He replaces Carl B. Neal, who retired in February. A graduate of the New York State College of Forestry, Mr. Bruce was foreman of a Civilian Conservation Corps and later was a ranger in national forests of New Hampshire, West Virginia, and Vermont. He also served as budget officer for the Eastern Region of the Forest Service.

Dr. Severin Fladness

Dr. Severin O. Fladness, 68, assistant chief, Bureau of Animal Industry, died on May 5. An authority on all phases of livestock diseases and regulatory work, he began his lifelong career with USDA in 1906 as an inspector. Dr. Fladness took a leading part in most of the Bureau's eradication accomplishments. He had worked in six outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in this country and played a big part in directing its eradication in Mexico from 1947 to 1952. Recently he had been heading up a wide campaign against vesicular exanthema of swine. Dr. Fladness was graduated from the Chicago Veterinary College in 1912 and practiced his profession in Iowa before joining the Department in 1913. He was assigned in 1930 to visit South American countries to study their livestock situation, and he was stationed in supervisory capacities at several field offices of the BAI. He was born in Norway and came to this country with his parents as an infant.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JUNE 17, 1953

Useful yuccas

YUCCA PLANTS of the dry Southwest are valuable vegetation to supply soil enrichment protection for small animals, and grazing for cattle, while their fibers and juice are often used industrially. But Cytologist John Milton Webber, USDA's Division of Cotton and Other Fiber Crops and Diseases, after many years of intense botanical and economic study of all varieties of yucca, says that its future is dim. Despite its huge concentration in areas possible for harvesting and utilization, the failure of the yucca plant to reproduce well and its destruction by man makes its outlook gloomy, he believes.

Yuccas grow in areas of moderate precipitation and moderate to low temperatures as well as in the mountain slopes of the deserts and semiarid zones with cloudless days, low rainfall, high temperatures and low humidity. According to Mr. Webber, they occur near sea level in southern California to 8,000 or more feet elevation in Colorado. Except for *Yucca elata* and *Y. glauca*, the plants of the plains and valleys are thinly scattered or in small dense patches. *Y. elata* and *Y. glauca* commonly occur in belts extending for many miles.

In connection with a survey during World War II to determine the volume of raw materials that might be harvested from the denser growing areas of southwestern yuccas, Mr. Webber found the largest concentration to be in the vicinity of Cima, Calif., covering 165 square miles, with an estimated yield of more than 63,000 tons in fresh leaves and 110,800 tons of fresh crowns. Other remarkably large concentrated growths are noted in the White Hill and Fresnal Canyon district of Arizona, in the Railroad Mountain area of New Mexico, and adjacent to Calhan, Kiowa, and Monument, Colo.

Early southwest Indian and Mexican cultures found yucca useful. Beams and timbers of *Yucca brevifolia* have been found in ancient cliff dwellings while twine and fiber made from yucca, and determined to be about 2,000 years old, were found in Canyon del Muerto ruins, Arizona.

Probably the largest original large-scale use of the plant in the United States was during the drought from 1916 to 1919, when the dead leaves were burned off yuccas and the plants cut and chopped for silage. Supplemented with concentrate meals, the yucca silage was of real value in maintaining herds. While in recent years the most extensive use of yucca has been in fiber production, its juice as a base in liquid fertilizer has been found to assist water penetration in heavy soils to reduce surface tension of irrigation water, and to promote soil flocculation to a marked degree.

But self-sterility and cross-pollination add to the insecurity of many species of yuccas, Mr. Webber concludes. The short-lived joshua tree has been wantonly burned and hacked by campers, and grazing sheep and goats and other farm enterprise have combined to destroy many of the species that made the yucca such a distinctive object in the Old West. A thorough description of the yuccas with both economic and botanical discussions of the varieties, well illustrated, is found in Agriculture Monograph No. 17, for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, at 50 cents a copy.

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Parker to India

Dr. Frank W. Parker, USDA director of soils research, will serve as agricultural adviser to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Indian Government. He will join the Foreign Agricultural Service as chief agriculturist in the Technical Cooperation Administration for India. He had been to India in 1951 and 1952, working on soils research and fertilizer procurement. His new work puts him in charge of all TCA programs in India. He served as head of soils research at Beltsville (Md.) Research Center of USDA and as Assistant Chief of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering for 6 years. He leaves for his assignment in August.

Aiken to employees

EXCERPTS FROM the main address of the day at the USDA Honor Awards ceremony on May 19 by Senator George D. Aiken of Vermont give us an idea of his attitude of appreciation for the standards established and the performance rendered by our rank and file:

I was impressed with the fact that many of the persons receiving these awards are from the field. This is clear evidence that Washington is not, as some seem to believe, the sole repository of ability, know-how, and beneficence to mankind.

An important concomitant of these awards is the psychological effect reports of this ceremony will have upon the public generally. Many who have come to regard public officials with suspicion and distrust will doubtless think more kindly of government service when they become acquainted with the full import of this occasion.

Today there is a special challenge confronting those who are working to better the living of the farmers of America.

Can we maintain a prosperous agriculture without war? Are we to go from one artificial method to another in an effort to do this?

From 1932 to 1940, we tried plowing under crops—restricting planting—marketing penalties—support prices and cash payments.

Yet, immediately prior to World War II, hogs were selling for 5 cents a pound, beef for 7 cents, cotton for less than 10 cents and the dairy farmer was getting 15 cents an hour for his own time. After 8 years of emergency methods, farmers' income was only at subsistence levels.

World War II made farming prosperous, but only at a price paid in human lives and suffering. An artificial prosperity can at best be only temporary.

Again in early 1950, agriculture began to feel the effects of declining purchasing power, only to be pulled out of this slump by the Korean War. Again this war-borne prosperity has proven to be only temporary, costly, and illusionary.

We can continue along the course of promoting agricultural income through legislative action. To a certain extent we will have to do this.

Such means, however, should be used mainly to provide time while scientists, chemists, plant and animal breeders, agronomists, marketing specialists and other experts meet the challenge in the field of permanent advancements.

Government controls are no substitute for the test tube, and giveway programs cannot permanently meet the need for sound, orderly and adequate marketing practices, both domestically and abroad.

I use the word "abroad" because no farm program for the United States can be properly devised and carried out without giving consideration to world conditions today.

The work of the United States Department of Agriculture has already done much to raise the standards of living in other lands. Through the Technical Assistance Programs and the Office of Foreign Agricultural Service, I look for far greater benefits to be derived in this direction.

As the world comes to rely more upon our cooperation in this field so will you, the employees of the Department of Agriculture, be called upon to greater effort in your own work. The contribution you can make to world stability is of untold extent. I have no fear that you will fail.

Send your name to the Graduate School for Catalog and Course Announcement.

Thickening rivers

HOW MUCH history of the West was "writ in water" was summed up succinctly at a March meeting of the American Chemical Society at Los Angeles by Dr. Lloyd V. Wilcox, Assistant Director of the U. S. Salinity Laboratory of Riverside, Calif. Dr. Wilcox set out to talk on the quality of water used for irrigation, a matter that he said "was given little thought during the early years of irrigation development."

"But now," he continued, "it has become a matter of great interest, possibly due in part to the changes in quality that have taken place in certain water supplies." Some of these changes, he said, have resulted from upstream diversions and drainage returns from irrigated fields—adding up to a smaller quantity of water containing a higher salt content for downstream users.

The effects of repeated use and reuse of water and withdrawals upstream, according to Dr. Wilcox, are to cut down quantity and quality at the same time. "The diversion and returning of the water may be repeated many times along a large river * * * and all of the chemical changes render the water less suitable for reuse."

The Rio Grande was one example used by Dr. Wilcox to show by means of figures from the Salinity Laboratory and various other sources how use and reuse thicken up the water. In 1949, used as a typical year, this river increased in salt concentration to a degree scarcely credible to those unacquainted with irrigation problems.

From a location a little south and west of the center of New Mexico, Otowi Bridge, to a place a little beyond El Paso, roughly 300 miles down the river, the increase in dissolved salts in the water was more than twelvefold, from 0.28 ton per acre-foot to 3.58 tons per acre-foot.

By the time the flow has reached El Paso, says Dr. Wilcox, most of the water has been used up. "As the flow decreases the concentration increases, so the salt burden is nearly constant from station to station along the river. * * * The tonnage of salt returned in the drainage water must be about equal to the salt diverted from the river by the irrigators, for, otherwise, the salt-burden value would vary and probably decrease in downstream order."

It appears, he says, that several irrigated areas along the Rio Grande are keeping an approximate salt balance. This was for a typical year for the river. Dr. Wilcox says there is no simple way to prevent the deterioration of irrigation water quality, and farmers often have to use water of higher salt content than desirable, limiting their choice of crops to the more salt tolerant and making leaching and good drainage necessary.

"Therefore," he says, "the problem of the deterioration of irrigation water quality because of use and reuse is of great economic importance."

Work scoring

PERFORMANCE RATING used throughout the Government is under study by a committee of the Federal Personnel Council, as well as by others. In a preliminary report it was observed that "summary ratings under the present system lose all significance because obviously, when 99.8 percent of the employees are rated 'satisfactory' no rating in the real meaning of the word has taken place."

The committee of the FPC stated that not only is incentive generally lacking under such a system, but its effect may often be an actual deterrent to superior accomplishments. They also point out that a typical check showed that about 0.01 percent of the employees received an "outstanding" rating. The committee believes that this is because supervisors interpret the rules as now in force to be unattainable, or else they do not care to attempt to prepare the necessary detailed justification for granting an "outstanding" rating.

In regard to the "unsatisfactory" rating, the FPC committee said that it can be used to discharge an employee with work below standards. However, such a rating may be given only under a specific 90-day warning and is subject to two appeals. Yet the general regulations also provide for action at any time to effect removals for unsatisfactory performance without the formality of a job rating and minus warnings and appeals for nonveterans, other than such as may normally be used under an agency's grievance procedures.

In seeking improvements in performance rating, some suggest that no agency be required by law to make them, but that supervisory and personnel people single out capable employees and reward them properly and pick out the ones whose work is unsatisfactory and give them due warning to do better or else face discharge.

Readers who do not share such opinions about this performance-rating system are welcome to contribute.

Said on the side

MAKING ADJUSTMENTS has been customary, albeit a painful necessity, to most of the persons who have spent their quiet lives in our old valley. From the raw and troublesome times of its original settlement, those who cast their lot with the husbandmen along our valley were constantly faced with all manner of obstacles which challenge and perplex the pioneer. Floods came roaring down the usually peaceful river and wrecked homes and farms into which had gone numerous daydreams and many labors, fond hopes and anxious planning. Surely here was a bitter dose that took a strong community to accept and overcome. But finally the remedies were forthcoming and resolves turned to reality, so that in what seemed to be a short time (except to those who managed the miracle) the features of the region again resumed their normal shape and life began once more where torrents laid it low. Sometimes there were utter crop failures in dry seasons, and all the spring tasks so bravely begun came to naught, and they faced a winter of reviving faith and new adjustments. Ravaging pests and plant diseases likewise tortured the farmers at intervals so that they felt helpless without the strong arm of science to aid them in their extremity. Marketing projects came into being with a loud hurrah and several hozannas, only to be bitten with neglect or bad management. Here again the crying need was for adjustments, not for quitting. A time to plan well, to build for everyone, not for a few. And they did it because for a century adjustments were the main regulators of their lives. A man who stands and kicks can't climb, they said. Adjustments were part of their destiny and their balance wheel. Perhaps the chief reason for this is that there are many times more valley farm folks—young and old—lying in eternal rest on Shooter's Hill than there are active operators of the farmsteads now. And for every one of those lives that ended and for everyone who had a personal loss and mourned greviously there had to be, under God's love, a solemn adjustment made. Hence they look to the work of the future and the plans of the living, remembering this was the way that all the other deadly enemies were conquered whenever troubles came to our old valley.

Crop insurance head

Charles S. Laidlaw, Sr., Minneapolis, is the new manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. Mr. Laidlaw replaces C. B. FunderBurk, who served as acting manager of the corporation for about 30 days.

Roseline

Author and editor

MANY SCIENTISTS have been perusing the clashing opinions about editing manuscripts appearing in *Science,* issued weekly by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It all started with a strong protest by an entomologist about material submitted to the *Quarterly Review of Biology,* which works on a very tight schedule and whose editors are unsalaried and do their work on unofficial time. We quote two contrary attitudes in brief from this controversy:

I have always maintained as fundamental the author's right to the presentation of his arguments as he sees them, subject only to the correction of errors of statement or direct misuse of English. If, as the editors in this case admit, 54.4 percent of the 287 changes made in the manuscript in question were allowed to stand over the author's protest made after seeing them for the first time—in type—they are obligated to publish one or the other of the explantory statements suggested by them, using that which the author prefers.

This unfortunate and sweeping exercise of editorial power brings into focus something that has been hanging like the sword of Damocles over the biological world, i. e., the regimentation and bureaucratic tendencies which are endeavoring to mold and standardize the scientific media in this country.

Now for one of the writers who thinks opposite about the editorial prerogatives:

My experience has been that the author has a limited command of English, has not been exposed soon enough to competent editorial work, thinks his method of expression is the only possible correct method, and resents every change as if the change were translations into a foreign language. To such an author, an extensive vocabulary and a method of expression different from his own actually are a foreign language.

Most technical journals already have more manuscripts than they can publish. Publication in a standard journal is a favor to an author. Every person who reads the printed article shows the author equal courtesy. * * * A competent editor defends the reader from the author and also the author from himself—and once in a blue moon gets thanks for doing so.

Honor for Stiebeling

The Ohio State Legislature last March passed a resolution to commend Dr. Hazel K. Stiebeling for receiving the USDA distinguished service award in 1952. Miss Stiebeling, a native of Ohio and Chief of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, received a scroll bearing the recognition, which paid tribute to her and the Bureau she directs for wide influence in human betterment.

Poultry menus popular

W. D. Termohlen, head of the Poultry Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration, reviews figures that show an important gain in consumption of poultry products between 1909 and 1951. These figures show, he says, that red meat intake has declined by more than 16 pounds per capita and milk products intake by 4 pounds. Eggs and poultry products, on the other hand, have gained 30 pounds.

Readers' reminders

New red raspberry

The Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station and USDA announce a new variety of red raspberry. It is the Canby, suitable for the fresh market and the frozen pack. Adapted for growing on deep, loose, well-drained soils, the Canby is superior to other commercial varieties suited to the Pacific Northwest. Ask USDA Editor for No. 1164.

Rust host eradicator

MCP is a new hormone type of herbicide that has been shown to be effective in killing rust spreading barberry bushes in heavily infested areas. Control operations against this host plant of stem rust should be considerably sped up by using this chemical at a cost of treatment much less than normal. More about this new weapon in the barberry battle may be had by asking *USDA* Editor for No. 1052.

Big feed recipes

New groups of recipes for quantity service meals, developed and tested for use in restaurants, hospitals, college dining halls and other institutional food-dispensing places, have been issued as Pa-223 in the quantity food service series by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Soups, main dishes, vegetable salad, muffins, and desserts are included. The recipe research was done by Georgia Schlosser, Velma Chapman, and Eleanor Geissenhainer.

Curtains for the cutworm

Suggestions on suitable dusts, the right preparation of sprays, and the use of poison bait against the ordinary cutworm are contained in Home and Garden Bulletin No. 29. It's the work of the Division of Truck Crop and Garden Insect Investigations, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Send to Inquiries and Distribution Service, Office of Information here.

That rose garden

Issued as a new and complete revision of an old Farmers' Bulletin, the new edition of "Roses for the Home" is by Emsweller, McClellan and Smith, Department authorities on ornamental plants and their culture and protection against insects and diseases. Its attractive 38 pages with pictures carries the rose enthusiast through rose classifications, soils and culture, propagation, and many details about ways to combat the worst enemies of this "queen of flowers." It will start oldtimers and newcomers through refresher courses in hybrid teas, florabundas, polyanthas, ramblers, and tree or trailing roses. Write direct for your copy to the Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. Ask for Home and Garden Bulletin No. 25.

Our task

Excerpt from an address by Secretary Benson before the National Farm Ranch Congress, Denver, Colo., April 7: "The farmer asks for, and should have, a fair chance to make his own way in a field of fair competition. He should have reasonable assurance of stability in the economy. He should have opportunity for education and have available the results of research that will enable him to do an efficient job of feeding and clothing the people of this great land. Our task is to see that he has these opportunities in an atmosphere of freedom, with a minimum of Government regulation and control. Our challenge is to make and keep America strong—economically, socially, and above all, morally and spiritually sound. Only in this course is there safety for the greatest nation under heaven. God grant that we may not fail."

Dr. Bacon dies

Dr. Charles Walter Bacon, plant physiologist and chemist who conducted research on the improvement of tobacco for 42 years in the Department, died suddenly March 19 at his home, 4312 Yuma Street NW., Washington, D. C. Widely known for his studies of tobacco-curing processes, he published many technical papers in his field. He belonged to the American Chemical Society and numerous other scientific organizations. He was born at Worcester, Mass., in 1886, and took degrees at Clark University. Dr. Bacon is survived by his wife and twin daughters.

Harold Hedges dies

Harold Hedges, 57, Chief of the Cooperative Research and Service Division, Farm Credit Administration, died suddenly on May 18 at his home in Chevy Chase, Md. Mr. Hedges was born and raised in Nebraska on a farm near Indianola. He graduated from the University of Nebraska and took advanced work in agricultural economics at Minnesota University. He worked on farm management in South Dakota, did a pioneer study on livestock marketing in Nebraska, taught at Kansas State College, and spent 9 years at Nebraska University doing rural economics research. After 2 years as secretary of the Omaha Bank for Cooperatives, he transferred to the FCA office in Washington, D. C., in charge of grain studies. During the war he took leave of absence to work with the National Committee for Farm Production Supplies. The American Farm Economics Association and Alpha Zeta Fraternity claimed him as a leading member and Mr. Hedges was chairman of the research and education committee of the American Institute of Cooperation. His wife and two sons survive him.

Brief and choice

Mark Nichols to Auburn

Dr. Mark L. Nichols is now in charge of the U. S. Tillage Laboratory, Auburn, Ala. He was a leader in setting up that institution in 1935. Previous to that he was professor of agricultural engineering at Alabama Polytechnic Institute. In recent years Dr. Nichols has been doing research for the Soil Conservation Service.

Pastors study conservation

The ministers of 38 North Carolina churches for Negro congregations recently attended a 6-week course in soil and water conservation held at Wadesboro, N. C., with John M. Jones, Negro soil conservationist, in charge. As a result some of the sermons of these active pastors in rural areas will stress stewardship of the soil.

CCC storage volume

As of June 30, 1952, the Commodity Credit Corporation owned storage bins with a capacity of 548 million bushels. It also had an extra 76 million bushels of capacity available under its storage use and guarantee deal. At that time loans made and outstanding commitments on building farm storage capacities equaled 126 million bushels from the start of this program. The loans averaged 28.6 cents per bushel of capacity.

Personnel data

Separations of full-time USDA personnel for last April for those within the United States amounted to 1,193, or 2.2 percent. In the Washington, D. C., area the separations were 124 and in the field the separations numbered 1,069, or 2.4 percent. Full-time employment as of April 30 numbered 56,412, of which there were 46,809 in the field and 9,609 within the Washington metropolitan area. Part-time employment was 13,541.

Retirement

Mrs. Julia B. Wilkinson, Research and Statistical Division, Fruit and Vegetable Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, retired on April 30 after a period of more than 18 years in USDA.

Killoran retires

A career with USDA that began in Rhode Island and spanned a continent and 47 years of duty ended June 1 when Meat Inspector J. J. Killoran retired. Mr. Killoran is said to be the last of the original meat inspection force to quit. He was named during the Theodore Roosevelt administration in 1906 and is today a hearty 68 years. He is a native of Cambridge, Mass., and has been stationed in Providence, Buffalo, Cleveland, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. He resides at Burlingame, Calif.

Cole promoted

Melvin V. Cole has been advanced from head of the employee relations section of the Farmers Home Administration to chief of the Administrative Services division. Mr. Cole has been with the FHA since its organization and served as personnel officer in the Portland and San Francisco regional offices. He came to the national office in 1947. Claude Prichard, formerly field representative in the personnel division, takes over the employee relations work which Mr. Cole performed.

Eisenmenger retires

A. E. Eisenmenger, inspector in charge of Federal meat inspection work at Bushnell, Ill., has retired after 35 years of service. He will thereupon begin his new job as executive secretary for the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association, with headquarters at St. Paul. Mr. Eisenmenger was a former district vice president of the American Federation of Government Employees.

Workshop promotion

Dr. E. R. Draheim, Division of Employee Performance and Development in Office of Personnel, has been doing field reviews in some of the USDA agencies and helping to plan future workshops in administrative management. Before returning June 1, he visited Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, Champaign, Peoria, Des Moines, and St. Paul.

Rabbits don't fly!

In connection with a strong protest against a certain food procurement ruling that bracketed poultry and rabbit meat together, the rabbit industry spokesmen insist that rabbits can't fly and that they are properly called "milk-fed mammals" whereas chickens are "scratch-fed fowl." The protesting group asked why the agency in question did not get advice from the Bureau of Animal Industry's rabbit experimental farm at Fontana, Calif.

Good sign for door

Walter H. Droste, president of the Federal Land Bank of St. Louis, says they are very proud of the sign on their office door: "FLB of St. Louis, farmer owned, farmer controlled." He says that the services of the land banks in years to come will be enhanced and made more effective through being farmer-owned and farmer-controlled.

Yearbook laurels

Besides being included in the list of the Fifty Books of the Year, the USDA 1952 Yearbook of Agriculture, entitled *Insects*, has been chosen as one of the textbooks of the year. A jury selects the textbooks on the basis of design, typography, production, and content and handling of the text and illustrations as related to design and production. Hence the 1952 Yearbook has been on exhibition in New York City by the Textbook Clinic and then, with the other winning textbooks, it will go on tour throughout the country.

Testing fence posts

J. S. McKnight, Southern Forest Experiment Station, New Orleans, reports results of a treatment experiment with a hot bath of coal-tar creosote and fuel oil applied to various hardwood species. He states that posts of overcup oak, bitter pecan, persimmon, sweetgum, hackberry, American elm, and red maple have lasted for 10 years after treatment without a single failure. The poorest term of service as posts have come from willow and cottonwood.

According to Moseman

Remarkable progress has been made in the past decade in reducing labor for various crops. In 1940 it took 47 man-hours to produce 100 bushels of wheat, and today only 31 hours. Growing and harvesting 100 bushels of corn took 83 man-hours before World War II, and now it can be done in 45 hours. In 1940 it took 191 man-hours to grow a bale of cotton, whereas today only 143 man-hours are required on the average.

Chemicals and containers

The workers in pest and plant disease control are assembling data on the effect of many new pest control chemicals on equipment used in applying them to plants and soils. Some of them attack rubber, galvanized steel, zinc and aluminum. Tanks, hose and pumps often show bad wear and corrosion. The cause and effect of using these chemicals and the use of specific coatings and stainless steel to afford more resistance in containers and equipment are among the existing projects under way cooperatively between USDA and industry.

Knapp cup displayed

At the south end of the Knapp Arch in the Department here a new treasure is on exhibit in a glass case. On behalf of the Knapp family on May 8 Virginia Knapp, granddaughter of the famous founder of cooperative extension work, presented this trophy to the Department, accepted by Secretary Benson. The cup was originally given by 325 coworkers of Dr. Knapp on February 12, 1910, in Texas. The placard above it carries this bit of Knapp philosophy: "What a man hears, he may doubt; what a man sees he may possibly doubt; but what he does himself, he cannot possibly doubt."

Dissolving thread

Water-soluble cotton is another research achievement of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. The Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans, uses two chemicals to treat the cotton yarn so it becomes water-soluble. It looks, feels, and is as strong as untreated cotton thread, but when placed in water the chemically changed cellulose swells to a jellied mass and then disintegrates. Possible uses for this treated thread are for open work material, basting threads, certain weaving processes, printing of loop fabrics, and otherwise where a yarn is wanted only temporarily.

Service record disposal

The General Services Administration, in trying to find reasonable ways to dispose of inactive accumulated official personnel folders, sees a good possibility of basing the disposal of related papers in the personnel files upon the death of the employee covered by the Federal retirement system. The Civil Service Commission has authority to destroy the files on deceased employees 2 years after the date of death. There is no limit for filing of death claims, but the CSC feels that the 2-year period will not affect such claims, as they are usually filed within 6 months after death. The matter could be handled safely, it is felt, by making the disposal of the records contingent upon approval of the retirement claims.

Irrigation's part

Irrigation plays no small part in the total agricultural output of the Nation, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in a statement by Elco Greenshields. About one-eighth of the United States crop production depends either all or partly upon irrigation on about one-sixteenth of the total harvested cropland. Even in the humid areas farmers are making more use of sprinkler systems, it is pointed out.

Woodland refreshment

The Forest Service estimates another big year of sightseeing and recreation in the 153 national forests. Actual registrations for recreational use of the forests numbered 33,006,885 persons in 1952, added to which another estimated 84,000,000 enjoyed casual sightseeing trips through the national forests. The three leading national forests in public usage last year were the Wasatch of Utah, Mount Hood in Oregon, and the Pike Forest in Colorado.

Capital for farming

An annual increase in new capital for agriculture of around 1 percent per year should be sufficient to maintain and gradually increase our farm productivity, writes O. V. Wells, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in *Farm Policy Forum* of Iowa State College, March 1953. He says this is about the same rate that new capital additions have been made since 1940, but double the rate of the 1920–40 era. At present prices this need for new capital in farming would run about 1½ billion dollars annually, Mr. Wells points out.

Sending bulletins overseas

There's a big demand from abroad for United States farm bulletins. United States Postal Regulations No. 79 which is on page 35, part 1, volume 4, No. 1, of the 1951 Official Postal Guide provides that all State station publications can be mailed to countries specified under the director's frank. For countries where the frank does not apply, the Smithsonian Institution is the designated agency for physical handling of the bulletin exchanges.

To avoid "June buying"

Secretary Benson in Memo No. 1327 of May 12, 1953, says that it would be wise to prevent unwarranted year-end obligation of funds which would otherwise revert to the U. S. Treasury. He fully recognizes that essential purchases of supplies may be necessary because of the seasonal nature of some programs or where continuing appropriations have little to do with the closing of a fiscal year. But he declared that "in no instance is there justification for spending accumulated balances for personnel employment, travel, or the purchase of supplies and equipment, or for any other purpose, unless these expenditures are necessary in the strictest sense for the prudent and effective discharge of our responsibilities to agriculture and the public." He insists that "June buying" must be avoided by limiting obligations to those needed for reasonable program requirements.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JULY 1, 1953

Keeping fit

HEALTH SERVICE of the Department of Agriculture is designed to promote and maintain the physical and mental health of employees. The idea behind it is that a healthy employee in a healthy environment not only does more and better work, but he works with greater zest and enjoyment. All employees of USDA who work in places where such official services have been established are eligible.

At present, besides the Washington, D. C. Division of Employee Health in the Office of Personnel, five health units, each under a nurse, are maintained in field offices. In the absence of direct medical supervision, their services are limited to first aid and care of minor illnesses. However, about 10 miles from Denver in the Federal Center the USDA employees are served by the Center's Health Unit, maintained in cooperation with other Departments and directed by a doctor. Similar units may be developed later.

Specific services authorized by Public Law 658 of the 79th Congress are: (1) Treatment of on-the-job illnesses, injuries, and dental conditions in an emergency; (2) physical examinations prior to employment; (3) referrals of employees to private doctors, dentists, and other health agencies; and (4) preventive programs relating to health.

While examinations and treatments are given for all sickness occurring during hours of work and the employee is advised about his needs and the best way to get proper medical aid, the Division does not provide full medical care. In addition, nonemergency treatment, authorized in writing by private physicians may be given.

As prevention beats cure, these five methods have been adopted to help prevent illness and maintain good health among employees. A healthful work environment, immunization against communicable diseases when exposure occurs on the job, giving health guidance and information, training in the ability to recognize and give early treatment to illness, and aiding the employee to use the community facilities available.

All medical information about employees is kept strictly confidential. Even the reports made to nonmedical officials of the agencies do not give the details of each case, but they merely indicate what the effect of the illness may be upon the capacity of the employee to continue at work, as well as the possible necessity for taking sick leave and when the employee should be able to resume full duty.

Other succeeding articles from time to time will relate to employee health maintenance and care. Facts for a better understanding and use of the health services are supplied by Dr. Leo J. Schildhaus, M. D., Acting Chief, Division of Employee Health.

Wage board activity

During the year, the Office of Personnel delegated authority to set wage rates to six new boards. Five of these were regional boards replacing four project boards in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. The sixth was a new board for all laborers and mechanics employed at field locations of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering. Creation of the new boards brought the total number of active wage boards in the Department to 26. Operations of these boards were reviewed to obtain as consistent application as possible of the rules and procedures under which they set wage rates for laborers and mechanics throughout the Department.

Training committee

Administrative management training work is supervised by a Department standing committee named by Under Secretary Morse, as follows: Richard D. Aplin, Office of the Secretary; Robert T. Beall, Rural Electrification Administration; Marcus C. Braswell, Production and Marketing Administration; Carl Colvin, Farm Credit Administration; Cannon C. Hearne, Foreign Agricultural Relations; Paul V. Kepner, Extension Service; Earl W. Loveridge, Forest Service; Sterling Newell, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Frank H. Spencer, Agricultural Research Administration; John L. Wells, Budget and Finance; D. A. Williams, Agricultural Conservation Programs; and C. O. Henderson, chairman, Office of Personnel.

Security program

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER issued Executive Order No. 10450, which replaces the present Federal Loyalty Program. Under the new Order, the program has been extended to all governmental departments and agencies, and combines both loyalty and security tests. It abolishes the Loyalty Review Board and places the full responsibility of reviewing the adjudicating cases upon the department or agency head. In addition, under the suggested agency regulations there will no longer be agency loyalty boards composed of employees of the interested department; when necessary, hearing boards will be set up composed of employees from other departments and agencies.

The tests applicable hereafter include substantially the same loyalty tests as those prescribed in E. O. 9835, in addition to the new security tests of trustworthiness, personal habits and other circumstances showing susceptibility to improper coercion, among other factors. The Order calls for a new review of all loyalty cases in which a full field investigation had been made under the existing loyalty program. A continuing survey by the Civil Service Commission and the National Security Council of the implementation of the program by all departments and agencies is provided for in order to spot any deficiencies and inequities which may become evident from time to time.

The Secretary of Agriculture was asked to designate for the CSC roster a list of persons qualified to sit on these security hearing boards. Such persons must have a high degree of integrity, ability, and good judgment. Each of these persons must have had "Secret" or "Top Secret" clearance. To secure these names a request was sent to all bureaus and agencies in the Department for nominations of employees for security hearing board rosters. The ratio for the Washington metropolitan area was the nomination of 2 persons for every 500 employees, and elsewhere the name of 1 person each for the following metropolitan areas where USDA offices are maintained: Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, Denver, Madison, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Portland, Oreg., and San Francisco-Oakland.

Wrecked dollars

Bureau of Animal Industry has issued a small poster reminder about serious automobile accidents. It states that, in 1952, auto accidents cost more than $94,200 to Bureau personnel in personal injuries, repairs, and related costs.

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Detective work

TO GET evidence of alleged dishonest manipulation of public stockyards scales for weighing cattle being bought and sold at Kansas City, Mo., representatives of the Livestock Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration installed automatic weight recording machines on certain scales operated by suspects. This move was known only to the officers of the stockyards and the PMA investigators.

Without regard to any movements of the balance ball or the poise on the weighbeam, the secret recording device determined the total weight on the scale platform and recorded it on a paper tape. Amounts found deducted from the true weight by 3 weighmasters unaware of their being checked, ranged from 60 pounds to 190 pounds on each lot of cattle containing from 1 to 6 head. This occurred after the men at the scales had been bribed to lower the weights as cattle were being bought. In checking these same weighmasters when cattle were being weighed preparatory to selling them, the amounts added to the true weights ranged from 90 to 120 pounds on specified lots.

Armed with this and other evidence, the case was heard and finally the offending dealer responsible for the bribing of weighmasters was suspended from licensed operations at the stockyards for 2 years, under authority of the Packers and Stockyards Act. These and many other "criminal cases" handled in the line of regular duty by the USDA agents are reported at intervals in the Department's official publication called "Agricultural Decisions."

Forest trips

Clubwomen often plan show-me trips to the national forests to study conservation, wild life and land restoration and kindred outdoor educational events. To aid them in planning such excursions with the help of Forest Service rangers and allied agencies, a little pamphlet is available. Write to your nearest Forest Service representative.

Althea Thacker retires

After service with USDA Extension Service and its forerunning agencies for about 42 years, Miss Althea Thacker retired on May 31, but remained to take part in the annual National 4–H club camp. Her influence through many years has been noticeable in many decisions and actions taken. She helped develop use of radio for Extension Service work and helped on numerous publications. Miss Thacker is a native of Illinois and studied for a while at George Washington University, Washington, D. C. Her career with USDA began in the Office of Experiment Stations. Later she worked with the late Reuben Brigham in the States Relations Service, predecessor to the present Extension Service. She intends to continue residing with a sister in Washington, D. C.

Readers' reminders

Foreign workers

Foreign workers may not be employed in farm work if United States farm workers are available. This is a matter of law and means that a qualified domestic worker looking for a farm job has a prior right to any available job ahead of foreign nationals. Details about this law and its terms and conditions may be secured from your local office of the United States Employment Service, with circulars upon request.

Foreign policy

A policy statement is available as made by Secretary Benson reflecting his views on foreign agricultural trade and technical assistance. The statement is based on discussions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Trade and Technical Assistance, whose 13 members discussed the grave and complex export-import situation in Washington May 18–19. Ask *USDA* editor for No. 1293.

Big enrollment

Since the passage of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, says the Extension Service, a total of 15,609,800 different boys and girls have been members of 4–H clubs in the 48 States, Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico. The average length of membership is 2.7 years.

Teaching forest values

There has been a revised edition of a helpful 4-page circular issued by the U. S. Forest Service relating to materials available to help teach forest conservation. These can be secured best from the various regional foresters, or else single copies for quick reference may be had from the Division of Information and Education, Forest Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

BAIC publications

A new list of processed publications of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry was prepared in May this year. This index key to numerous scientific papers by laboratory workers of the Bureau contains 25 pages from which to order publications that originated in the respective regional research laboratories. Send requests to the Information Division, BAIC, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

American grass book

University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla., has published "The American Grass Book" with 175 illustrations and 53 maps, written by Sellers Archer and Clarence Bunch. Employed respectively by the Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service of Oklahoma A & M College, they have worked with farmers and ranchers for 20 years in this field. The retail cost per copy is $3.95.

Stream flow and snowfall

"Snow minus heat stores more water than any man-made reservoir ever conceived; snow plus heat and rainfall, provides water for use by man." Snow in the mountains and its ultimate effect on river systems below are subject to reasonably accurate measurements and surveys that make forecasts possible. Circular No. 914, "Stream Flow Forecasting from Snow Surveys" is a recent publication by Soil Conservation Service. R. A. Work, snow project supervisor, is its author. Data and computations used in the report were supplied by H. G. Wilm, U. S. Forest Service; M. W. Nelson, Homer Stockwell, Gregg Pearson, and A. R. Codd, SCS, and R. T. Beaumont, Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station. Ask SCS for a copy about the benefits of stream-flow forecasting by means of snow surveys.

Piedmont poet

POETS LIKE romantic and unusual place names. A few months ago Daniel Whitehead Hicky, a successful professional poet doing information work with USDA as a sideline, listed for us just a few locations in his native State of Georgia that have flavorful names. Among them Mr. Hicky mentioned "Talking Road," "Ball Ground," "Dewy Rose," "Split Silk," "Doe Run," and "Rising Fawn." Within his home county of Walton, he points to "Good Hope" and "Social Circle," and it may be inferred that his rich antecedents of Southern tradition and charm place him in the very midst of the latter community.

At any rate, Mr. Hicky has had quite a wide journalistic and public relations career before he joined the Atlanta PMA staff. He was with public relations in the U. S. Air Force, fashioned a weekly comment column for the *Constitution,* and ran another subsequent enterprise in two Atlanta newspapers—that of covering Federal employee activity.

Mr. Hicky has published 5 volumes of poetry and his work has appeared in 35 leading magazines, such as *Good Housekeeping, Saturday Evening Post, Cosmopolitan, Saturday Review of Literature, McCalls, Harper's Bazaar,* the *Farm Journal,* and the *New York Times Magazine.* He belongs to the Poetry Society of America with one of the society's recent annual prizes to his credit. He also won two awards for his poems from the Southeastern Writers Association. The funny part of it is that "Jack" Hicky seldom tries to look the part of a trained poetic celebrity—which goes to show that surface signs are not reliable in judging depth of character or extraordinary ability.

For potato fans

Acreage, production, farm values, and disposition of commercial potato crops from 1866 through 1950 is the title of a new statistical bulletin numbered 122. It is by the Crop Reporting Board, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. It is listed for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 50 cents per copy.

Bulletin guide

W. Philip Leidy is the author of a new book issued by the Columbia University Press of New York, entitled "A Popular Guide to Government Publications." It carries 2,500 selected titles, of which USDA publications form about one-third of the total. Author Leidy acknowledges help from James H. McCormick, Deputy Director of Information, and Mrs. Eleanor Clay, compiler of the Inquiries and Distribution Service index of USDA publications, who also presides at the information desk in Room 104, Administration Building.

Said on the side

WORK STANDARDS of devotion and painstaking detail established by those who have left this world remain an inspiration and a guide for most of the families in our old valley. It is not a question here of great national concern—these memories of farm and household tasks well done—but simply a record of ideals which those former companions insisted upon as being essential things for one's everyday life and the personal joy one gets from the fulfillment of the common, daily responsibilities which always go with life inseparably. Recalling these, one sees a lovely piece of cabinet work, a barn well built, a field clean and fertile, a herd of high production, or perhaps a knitted spread or scarf or a hooked rug without a flaw or hasty imperfection to mar the memory of those who did the work so thoroughly in humility and obscurity. The old world cathedral builders who carefully sculptured each saint's and angel's face and formal flower—even though the final carved adornment was destined to be completely hidden high above the observant throngs of centuries—they were kindred fellowcraft spirits with the diligent home makers and farm founders of our old valley's other days. "Anything worth doing at all is worth doing well" is the significant tradition of such satisfying achievements that many of us should seek to inherit in greater measure from our valley generation gone beyond. When all other aims are dim, we still have this to reach for as a goal.

Schollenberger visits

Back for his 40th class reunion at Penn State College, J. H. Schollenberger of Holly Hill, Fla., with Mrs. Schollenberger, came to see old friends in the Department while in Washington, D. C. He was the first student in the country to enter a college course in milling, which was at Penn State College in 1908. Mr. Schollenberger's most recent assignment prior to his retirement last summer was with Mutual Security Agency in handling wheat processing developments in Greece. For several years he was head of Commodity Development Division at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria, Ill. He also spent a year for the Government Supply Center in the Middle East in World War II and had previously spent 2 years as a grain specialist with the Argentine Republic. Even before that he was on a European mission for several years, associated there with Harry Reed and J. B. Hutson, in the 1931–34 period. One result of this was a 200-page bulletin on the grain requirements of Europe which he wrote for USDA afterwards. His early career with the Government was as a developer of official grain standards during service with the Bureau of Markets and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. He expects to enliven his retirement by writing a new book on United States cereals and their uses.

Brief and choice

Work injuries

According to estimates by the U. S. Department of Labor, Americans in 1952 sustained 2,031,000 work injuries of a disabling nature. The agricultural industry sustained 320,000 disabilities that year, or a decrease of about 10,000 from the reported figure for 1951.

Koenig talks to grads

Nathan Koenig, Assistant to the Director, Commodity Marketing and Adjustment, Office of the Secretary, gave the main address to the graduates at the A & M College, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, P. R., on June 1. His theme was the challenge to youth in the readjustment and improvement of agriculture in Puerto Rico.

Idle usable land

"Throughout the South there are about 17 million acres of idle cropland, most of which is capable of agricultural production if cleared and developed," says Dr. Robert M. Salter, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service. "The average cost of clearing, developing, fertilizing, and seeding to pasture mixtures would be about $75 per acre. Fertilizer maintenance and weed control would cost about $20 per acre annually. Improved pastures on this land could be expected to produce about 300 pounds or more of beef per year."

FHA driving advice

Farmers Home Administration in one of its procedure notices to all its field employees reminds them to adhere strictly to all State and local traffic laws and regulations when driving on official business in a period of heavy highway usage. It reminds them that during the first 4 months of this calendar year 18 FHA employees while on official business were injured in automobile accidents. Besides all the suffering and time loss, more than $9,000 worth of damage occurred to automobiles.

Shrinking sweetpotato

Within 6 years the production of sweetpotatoes has fallen from 61 million bushels a year to 26 million, despite the nutritional value, variety of preparation and popularity of this vegetable. Herbert W. Mumford, Jr., Bureau of Agricultural Economics, attributes this serious decline in a valuable vegetable to many things. It requires much hard "stoop over" labor, and the extending of the marketing season beyond a few weeks at harvest time needs careful gathering and handling to avoid serious damage to the tubers, and also suitable curing and storage facilities that few small growers can afford to provide. Although the slightly increased acreage to sweetpotatoes this year is in response to firm prices and good demand, Mr. Mumford thinks it unlikely that the sweetpotato will very soon regain its lost ground.

According to Davis

In a recently published statement in "Marketing Activities" issued monthly by the Production and Marketing Administration, J. Grant Lyons, editor, appears this conclusion by John H. Davis, Director Commodity Marketing and Adjustment: "The decision to have less government and more private enterprise in our farm economy is one to be made by farmers and businessmen serving farmers, and not by government officials. If they want less government in business, then they, not the government, must make decision in terms of constructive action on their part. By inaction the decision becomes an automatic one in favor of more and more government in business."

Agronomy Society dates

L. G. Monthey, Madison, Wis., executive secretary of the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Society of America, points to many new developments in crops and soils research that will be reported for the first time at the forthcoming annual meetings of the societies at Dallas, Texas, November 10–20. Anyone concerned with crop or soil matters is invited to attend.

Forest safety council

At Marion, Va., recently officers of the Jefferson National Forest established a forest safety council. It will function as a clearinghouse on plans, information, and preventive programs to reduce accidents in the big woods. Meetings will be held annually to determine a special safety program in advance, based on surveys in the unit to seek opinions and advise on major safety problems and precautions. Monthly district meetings to discuss and point up all details of the safety code for foresters and local safety inspections will be routine procedure.

Big dairyman

W. Lawson King, chairman of the Farm Credit Board of the Baltimore Land Bank, owns and operates a farm with one of the largest herds of purebred Holstein cattle in the United States—totaling 645 head. Mr. King, who has been a member of the Farm Credit Board for 12 years, ships more than 8,000 gallons of milk to the Washington, D. C., market weekly.

Three appointments

Two new appointments and one reappointment were announced lately by the Federal Land Bank of St. Paul. Paul E. Miller, director of agriculture extension in Minnesota, was named a director of the Farm Credit Board, a position he held from 1947 through 1949. A. R. Ettesvold, formerly employed in the appraisal department, is the new information agent and assistant to the general agent, succeeding the late Jack Keenan. Henry T. Welch, Ionia, Mich., was named again for the position of Third District director of the land bank.

FHA borrowers prosper

Farmers Home Administration made a progress study of the records of 25,460 families who repaid their operating loans in 1952 and continued to farm. The average family began with a net worth of $3,560, borrowed $2,088, repaid the loan 3.6 years afterwards with interest of $191 and then had $6,655 net worth to their credit at the time their final payment was made.

Two get degrees

Randall Latta, in charge of the Division of Stored Product Insect investigations, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science June 1 by Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, where he received an A. B. degree in 1927. He has had broad experience in the control of insects on ornamental plants, and in the development of treatment of plants and commodities regulated by plant quarantines. During World War II he directed development of methyl bromide fumigation equipment which was adopted by the Armed Forces.

Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kans., awarded to Arthur W. Lindquist, Department entomologist and an alumnus of the college, the honorary degree of Doctor of Science on June 1. Dr. Lindquist and his associates first developed and advocated the residual insecticide principle of controlling mosquitoes, now the primary method throughout the world of controlling malaria. Dr. Lindquist was the first to demonstrate that adult mosquitoes could be controlled by DDT sprays applied by aircraft or other equipment. He is stationed at Corvallis, Oregon.

Very much pioneer

Browsers in a library at Cattaraugus county, N. Y., have found several exhibits and manuals dated 1856 at the time of a local corn growing contest for boys. A record and a story by young Franklin Spaulding of East Otto, N. Y., gives his experience with corn he entered at the Watertown fair. Horace Greeley, famed newspaper editor, was sponsor of this early piece of extension teaching.

Former employee folders

On March 3, 1953, under authority of Executive Order 9784, it became obligatory for all agencies to send to the Federal Records Center at St. Louis all official personnel folders of separated employees 1 year after separation. Previous to such order these records were held in over 48,000 filing cabinets and other types of filing equipment, located at 22,950 places within the Federal Government. They were the source for answering more than 600,000 annual inquiries, and the maintenance and servicing of these records were taking the full-time employment of about 300 persons, not including many serving part-time.

Emphasize career employment

The Civil Service Commission has suspended authority for making noncompetitive appointments—excepting those of former status employees and certain military service individuals. The suspension is intended to emphasize the appointment of displaced career employees. To this end, the Commission has issued a current list of such displaced career employees now eligible for reinstatement. T. Roy Reid, Director of Personnel, advises the USDA agency supervisors to make regular use of this CSC list as a means of filling positions in advance of regular certification procedures.

Anderson succeeds Fladness

Dr. Robert J. Anderson has been named assistant chief of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry, in charge of disease control and eradication activities by Dr. B. T. Simms, chief of the Bureau. Dr. Anderson assumed this post in the Agricultural Research Administration on June 7, succeeding Dr. S. O. Fladness, who died May 5, 1953. Dr. Anderson played an important part in the successful administration of the foot-and-mouth disease eradication campaign in Mexico.

Flat land bounty

"Probably something like 50,000,000 acres subject to overflow in tributary valleys can be given reasonable protection by watershed programs. This relatively flat land, generally free from sheet erosion, is, on the average, potentially the most productive land we have if it is given reasonable flood protection. Based on watershed surveys of more than one-third of the Nation, we estimate that programs of land treatment and waterflow-retardation measures could provide in these tributory valleys an increased agricultural production equivalent to that of 6,700,000 acres of class I land, in addition to all other benefits from reduction of flood damages. This would be brought about by an average level of protection against overflow of somewhat less than 10-year frequency. This is not the limit of possibilities, but merely a conservative and foreseeable goal. The increase from even this conservative goal compares favorably, however, with the agricultural potential that can be achieved by irrigating all the remaining irrigable lands for which water can be made available in the 17 Western States. This additional agricultural production will be greatly needed within the next 25 years to meet the demands of our increasing population."—Cal. B. Brown, Assistant Chief of Operations, Soil Conservation Service.

Forest roads and trails

A classification of mileage in the national forest road and trail system in charge of Forest Service shows a total mileage of 274,375.8 miles. Of this system total, 156,291 miles are of a satisfactory standard while the remainder are either unsatisfactory or nonexisting.

Coffee research aids

Foreign Agricultural Service has issued a new processed 150-page review of the abstracts relating to coffee growing and processing. Prepared for and with funds from the Technical Cooperation Administration, the abstract should give helpful data for the employed field technicians. It was done by Laurenz Greene, Technical Collaboration Branch of FSA.

Spring tonic

The Vegetable Gardeners' Handbook on Insects and Diseases, issued in revised form as Home and Garden Bulletin No. 23, is being distributed through the Inquiries and Distribution Service, Office of Information, and cooperating State colleges. The authors are S. P. Doolittle, senior pathologist in the Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops, and the late W. H. White, former principal entomologist, Division of Truck Crop and Garden Insect Investigations.

Smokejumpers

Forest Service reports that for the 1952 fire control season there were 267 smokejumpers employed in five regions of the National Forests. There were 836 jumps made to fires during the season, but 69 of the regular smokejumpers served in ground crews only. The estimated saving due to the effective employment of trained smokejumpers with parachutes was about $1,291,000 with fires on more than 60,000 acres.

Forest fire manpower

Regions 1, 4, and 5 of the Forest Service again report difficulty in getting adequate manpower for fire control. Retirement and resignation of some of the older and better qualified personnel has continued to reduce the experienced fire-fighting forces, explains Richard E. McArdle, Chief. The Indian fire crews trained in Region 3 were borrowed to help combat fires in four other western regions. Two fatalities at fires were reported in 1952.

Foreign assignments

There are today an estimated 648 American agricultural technicians at work in the underdeveloped areas of the world under the direction of United States and United Nations agencies. Of these, the Food and Agriculture Organization employs 83 Americans, the Mutual Security Agency has 143, the Technical Cooperation Administration of the State Department has 285, while another group employed in Latin America by TCA and the Institute of Inter-American Affairs has 86 listed. In addition, the Land-Grant colleges now have 51 American workers abroad.

Freshmen courses

The probationary trainee program which was started in 1948, has developed to a point where several hundred trainees have been appointed. Under this program the employing agency has an opportunity to train and observe employees while employed as students during summer vacations and to carefully select the outstanding students for permanent appointment. At the present time, this type of examination procedure is in use in recruiting in the fields of soil conservation, range conservation, soil science, agricultural engineering, and veterinary medicine.

Peach mosaic control

Success has followed the cooperative control work against the peach mosaic virus disease. Growers, nurserymen, States, counties, and the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine working together have apparently eliminated mosaic from 21 counties in California, Colorado, Utah, and Texas, and reduced its prevalence in many other sections of those States.

Using "blank" pages

Quite often in making up the "signatures" of the paper used in printing bulletins or circulars there are one or more empty or blank pages left at the end of the text. Recently the USDA Division of Publications decided to use such a spare page for a general reminder on farm safety and accident prevention. Such a policy will usually be followed in the Farmers' Bulletins and Leaflets and the Home and Garden bulletin series.

Extend storage bin loans

The Department has announced a 1-year extension of time, through June 30, 1954, in which farmers may get CCC loans to finance the building or purchase of new farm storage facilities for grains and such nonperishables. As of last March 31, a total of 34,263 loans for about $40,500,000 had been approved for farm storage structures with an aggregate capacity of about 142 million bushels. Local lending agencies or the Production and Marketing Administration County Committee handle these loans up to 80 percent of the cost of the structures.

Southern laboratory visits

During the first quarter of 1953, the Southern Regional Research Laboratory at New Orleans was the scene of eight industrial and educational group conferences to exchange information on current and prospective research. In that period 924 visitors came to the laboratory. Of these, 21 persons were from 14 foreign countries, 442 had technical interest, 134 were for sales and services, 64 sought employment, 210 came on tours, 13 consulted the laboratory's library, while the balance of 40 persons were casual visitors.

U. S. bacteria book

Many species of the far-flung group of bacteria known as *Bacillus* have been described in USDA Agriculture Monograph No. 16, "Aerobic Sporeforming Bacteria." This authoritative publication which classifies these microorganisms in the best order ever available to scientists and students, climaxes 40 years of work in soil bacteriology by Dr. Nathan R. Smith, who recently retired from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. Since his retirement, Dr. Smith has become one of the editors of *Bergey's Manual,* foundation book on bacteria classification. For copies write Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. The price is 75 cents per copy.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin

FOR JULY 15, 1953

People make it click

OUR DEPARTMENT is more than buildings, equipment, and words put on paper. Primarily it is people, according to remarks by Assistant Secretary J. Earl Coke, in recent talks given at the Honor Awards ceremony at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., and before the USDA Personnel Officers at a luncheon meeting in May.

He declared that the effectiveness of the Department is judged by the action of the people who make it—not just at the policy level but all the way through. The Department attracts sincere, loyal people to carry out its responsibilities, it was stated; and that our success in making it possible for each employee to make a maximum contribution depends on how alert we are in getting the right person in the right job, and providing the necessary training and channel clearing to utilize his efforts to the fullest. Some further direct quotes follow:

There are certain guidelines, or rules of the road, to be observed in good administration. (1) Those administering a program must be "sold" on it and see its values and contribution to public service. (2) There must be a feeling of belonging, that we are wanted and needed to play a vital part in the work. A chance to see some of the results of the work is a further help to personnel. (3) Clear-cut lines of communication, authority, and support are needed for good administration, to make clear to whom and for what an employee is responsible.

Further, (4) a chance must be given for exchange of ideas, techniques, and procedures between groups of workers. (5) Flexibility of operation is essential to success in any workable program.

To pay the price of good administration requires such fundamentals as these: Authority as well as responsibility must be given; in-service training programs must be carried out; superior achivement must be recognized; promotion should come from within; democratic administrative methods by supervisors are vital; and we cannot ever tolerate any signs of rigid bureaucracy.

For each employee there is a need to apply the proven methods of personnel management. This means being able to put ourselves in the other person's place and understand his reactions. It means putting our heart in our job and believing in it. It means taking some time out to do constructive thinking. We must try to show how a job can be done better and easier—not why it cannot be done at all. Supervisors should learn to be specialists in personnel management—not just paper shuffiers. Finally, it is our task to meet the challenge of Secretary Benson for mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation among ourselves.

In closing his remarks, Mr. Coke emphasized that the thing we need most is the development of wider horizons in our work. If we have time to be free from the daily rush and routine to consider objectives and horizons ahead, he believed that all the paperwork and the project outlines will soon fall into a pattern and become in themselves relatively minor compared with the broader and larger goals.

Intern scholarships

GRADUATE SCHOOL is contributing to the improvement of public management by offering twenty-five scholarships a year to persons who are participating in an administrative intern training program of a Federal agency. This program which is sponsored by the Civil Service Commission is designed to train young employees who have demonstrated ability for administrative positions. It is part of the government's program to promote from within whenever possible. The Graduate School scholarships consist of free tuition for one course. Six interns from the Adjutant General's Office held Graduate School scholarships during the spring term which just ended. Applications for these scholarships should be made by letter to the Registrar of the Graduate School through the appropriate official in the agency in which the intern is training.

Administrators of GS

The members on the administrative board for the USDA Graduate School are: John H. Davis, Clarence M. Ferguson, C. O. Henderson, R. E. McArdle, True D. Morse, T. Roy Reid (chairman), Robert M. Salter, B. T. Shaw, and Oris V. Wells.

Security program

NOT UNTIL the new official regulations are received and the accompanying forms are supplied relating to the Federal security employment program should any definite action therein be taken by agency heads and work supervisors. According to Office of Personnel authorities on this new Government project instituted by Presidential order, a complete list of the sensitive positions was submitted to Pers by the various bureaus and agencies in the Department. These lists have been reviewed and considered prior to formal decisions as to selection of the sensitive positions that will be established in the future.

Meantime conferences have been held with the Department of Justice in respect to procedures involved. A decision must come soon concerning positions of employment that will be exempt from these security ratings. It is conjectured that the Department personnel officers will pass on the eligibility of applicants for sensitive positions. At any rate, the investigations will be much tighter and no appointments for a sensitive position may be made until the formal field investigation is finished, except that for emergency purposes in some critical work it will be possible for the bureau or agency in question to certify the individual temporarily for a limited period only.

In a general way, it is believed that the number of positions declared sensitive will be kept at a minimum, other things being equal. Our personnel people feel that only those in very strategic positions who have access to highly confidential policy materials should be declared to be in sensitive positions. For one thing, the estimated cost of each formal investigation is expected to be about $200, payable by the bureau or agency who employs the worker.

Gibson to motion pictures

James Gibson, recently production manager for the Army Pictorial Service, has joined USDA's Motion Pictures Service as Assistant Chief—Walter M. Scott being the Chief. Mr. Gibson was born in Meridian, Miss., and was raised in Norfolk, Va., and Columbia, S. C. He graduated from Duke University in 1934 and worked for a short time in the U. S. Senate for Senator "Cotton Ed" Smith. He later worked for the U. S. Bureau of Standards and became interested in a project on storing motion picture films. With this experience, he joined the U. S. Archives where he handled storage and reviewing of historical films. In World War II he was on active duty with the U. S. Signal Corps in visual work, including reviewing of footage received from oversea combat zones. He also did training in visual requirements during his service with the U. S. Army Pictorial Services from June 1946 to June 1953, when he came to USDA.

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For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Bureau of Agricultural Economics: MARGUERITE L. HIGGINS, Clerk, Washington, D. C.; AUDREY G. MOSS, Clerk–Typist, Richmond, Virginia; HELEN ZIEGLER, Statistical Assistant, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Farmers Home Administration: WOODROW G. BECK, Farm Management Supervisor, Indianapolis, Indiana; F. ELIZABETH BELL, Clerk-Typist, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; L. DOW BELL, Farm Management Supervisor, Bonham, Texas; PERCY H. BOWMAN, Farm Management Supervisor, Stuart, Virginia; HARLAN M. BRANSON, Civil Engineer, Portland, Oregon; OLIVER R. BROWN, Farm Management Supervisor, Decatur, Texas; ENOCH H. COOK, Farm Management Supervisor, Edinburg, Texas; HENRY H. EBEL, Farm Management Supervisor, Towner, North Dakota; CECILE E. DARRINGTON, Personnel Clerk (Stenographer), Denver, Colorado; SAM R. ELLISON, Farm Management Supervisor, San Saba, Texas; CALVIN MURL FRAZE, Time, Leave, and Pay Roll Supervisor, Denver, Colorado; ROSE E. FECKLER, County Office Clerk, Jamestown, North Dakota; MRS. MARY B. FIELDING, Clerk-Typist, Bonham, Texas; MRS. MARY E. HOFFMAN, Clerk-Typist, Mason City, Iowa; ADAM S. LIPP, Farm Management Supervisor, Bismarck, North Dakota; ARTHUR F. MAXWELL, Farm Management Supervisor, Bonham, Texas; MRS. BERNICE MCGUIRE, Lease and Contract Clerk, Denver, Colorado; CALLIE RUTH PRICE, Clerk-Typist, Stuart, Virginia; HERBERT L. ROSENKRANZ, Farm Management Supervisor, Yakima, Washington; MARY E. SKIDMORE, Administrative Assistant, Dallas, Texas; LAWRENCE D. SMITH, Agriculturist, Dallas, Texas; WALTER H. STINE, Farm Management Supervisor, Valley City, North Dakota.

Forest Service: MONTGOMERY M. ATWATER, Avalanche Forecaster, Salt Lake City, Utah; JOHN R. BERRY, Forester, San Francisco, California; ARCHIE L. BOLANDER, Forester, Taos New Mexico; ALFRED K. CREBBIN, Forester, Yreka, California; WALTER R. DENNEY, Forester, San Francisco, California; LLOYD V. DONALLY, Forestry Aid, St. Maries, Idaho; CLYDE W. DORAN, Range Conservationist, Delta, Colorado; WESLEY D. HATHAWAY, Construction and Maintenance Supervisor, Idaho Springs, Colorado; EVERETT J. JENSEN, Forester, San Francisco, California; ROBERT P. A. JOHNSON, Engineer, Madison, Wisconsin; MRS. JANET L. KARTCHNER, Clerk-Typist, Portland, Oregon; THEODORE L. KELLER, Supervising Highway Engineer, Ogden, Utah; JOHN M. KUCERA, Forester, Pendleton, Oregon, and NATHANIEL R. SMITH, Automotive Mechanic Foreman I, Lakeview, Oregon; GLEN A. LAMBERT, Forester, Vernal, Utah; JOHN T. MATHEWS, Forester, Ogden, Utah; FLOYD L. MORAVETS, Forest Economist, Portland, Oregon; DOUGLAS C. MORRISON, JR., Forester, Winslow, Arizona; HENRY A. MULLIN, Mechanical Engineer, Albuquerque, New Mexico; ALVEN I. RICKEL, Administrative Engineer, Spokane, Washington; RUSSELL K. SMITH, Forester, Halsey, Nebraska; ANTHONY E. SQUILLACE, Forester, Missoula, Montana; FRANK WALISCH, Procurement and Supply Officer, Detroit, Michigan; MERVIN WHITMORE, Fire Control Aid, Hebo, Oregon.

Production and Marketing Administration: MARY K. BENWAY, Administrative Assistant, Washington, D. C.; LAWRENCE A. GROGAN, Commodity, Industry Analyst, Washington, D. C.; DELBERT J. HARRILL, Chief Auditor, Washington, D. C.; JULIAN P. HICKS, General Investigator, Atlanta, Georgia; CLYDE L. KIDDLE, Director, PMA Commodity Office, Portland, Oregon; ALVAN M. MCDOWELL, Fruit and Vegetable Market News Reporter, San Francisco, California; THEODORE L. MOELLER, Administrative Assistant, Phoenix, Arizona; MARY M. RIORDAN, Administrative Assistant, Chicago, Illinois; LEE A. SEIDELL, Program Specialist, Oakland, California; CHARLES S. SHAW, Cotton Technologist, Stoneville, Mississippi; ROGERS THOMPSON, Mail Clerk, Washington, D. C.; EVELYN V. TRICKETT, Secretary, Washington, D. C.

Bureau of Animal Industry: DR. MEIER E. BRODNER, Veterinary Meat Inspector, New York, New York; DR. THEODORE C. BYERLY, Animal Husbandman, Beltsville, Maryland; JOHN V. DARR, Meat Inspector, Ottumwa, Iowa; L. R. EDMUNDSON, Administrative Officer, Chicago, Illinois; MRS. GRACE K. GESSFORD, Secretary, Beltsville Maryland; ORVILLE G. HANKINS, Animal Husbandman, Beltsville, Maryland; MARY JANE HAYDEN, Administrative Assistant, Washington, D. C.; BURT W. HEYWANG, Animal Husbandman, Glendale, Arizona; DR. RUSH M. JOHNSON, Veterinary Livestock Inspector, Des Moines, Iowa; PAUL W. KEARNS, Physical Science Aid, Beltsville, Maryland; WILLIAM J. KREBS, Administrative Officer, Beltsville, Maryland; JOSEPHINE E. LAUTH, Secretary, Washington, D. C.; FRANCIS J. LONGEN, Position Classifier, Washington, D. C.; DR. GEORGE R. LOUDEN, Veterinary Meat Inspector, Fort Worth, Texas; FLOYD W. MCCLELLAN, Meat Inspector, Ottumwa, Iowa; DR. HAROLD H. PAS, Veterinarian, Washington, D. C., DR. CHARLES J. PRCHAL, Veterinary Meat Inspector, Phoenix, Arizona; LEONARD RUE, Meat Inspector, New Orleans, Louisiana; DR. DON C. WARREN, Poultry Husbandman, Lafayette, Indiana.

Bureau of Plant Industry: BRUCE L. BAIRD, Soil Scientist, Beltsville, Maryland; MRS. HARRIETT ANN CARR KILBY, Clerk-Stenographer, Beltsville, Maryland; VICTOR L. STEDRONSKY, Agricultural Engineer, Mecilla Park, New Mexico; MRS VIVIAN KEARNS TOOLE, Botanist, Beltsville, Maryland.

Farm Credit Administration: ANNA L. GESSNER, Agricultural Economist, Washington, D. C.

Soil Conservation Service: FRANK E. BIVENS, Soil Conservation Aid, Upper Darby, Pa.; CATHERINE G. BRADLEY, Clerk-Stenographer, Upper Darby, Pa.; HAROLD E. CHASE, Soil Conservationist, Stanton, Michigan; JAMES W. DYE, Soil Scientist, Bowling Green, Kentucky; SARA S. FAIRLEY, Clerk-Stenographer, Columbia, South Carolina; CYRIL M. JACOT, Soil Conservation Aid, Caro, Michigan; EARL C. NICHOLS, Soil Conservationist, Clay Center, Kansas; JAY H. PAYNE, Soil Conservationist, Salina, Kansas; MRS. HELENE H. REID, Statistical Assistant, Washington, D. C.; JOSEPH E. SCHRADER, Soil Conservationist, Oskaloosa, Kansas; CAREY W. SUMMERS, Soil Conservationist, Dixon, Kentucky; MARGARET RUTH CLAY, Clark-Stenographer, Jackson, Mississippi.

Correspondence courses

Available correspondence courses in the USDA Graduate School now cover 11 different subjects of study. The complete costs vary from $14 to $39, including postage and incidentals. Get details from the GS direct.

Clapper retires

Russell B. Clapper, pathologist, Division of Forest Pathology, BPISAE, retired April 30, 1953. He was a member of the Division for 29 years. He has been especially interested in the field of forest genetics. His article entitled "Breeding and Establishing New Trees Resistant to Disease," published in Economic Botany, July–September 1952, has been helpful to forest geneticists. Mr. Clapper worked extensively in the field of selecting and breeding blight-resistant chestnuts. Some of his hybrids are now being planted in State and National forests. Since 1948 Mr. Clapper has been in charge of the Division of Forest Pathology's branch station at Lake City, Florida, where he investigated diseases of turpentine pines. He expects to live in Fort Myers, Florida.

Transfer functions

REORGANIZATION PLAN NO. 2, 1953, became effective at midnight June 3, 1953. The Senate had rejected a resolution disapproving the Plan. The House, by a vote of 128 to 261 on June 3, rejected a motion to consider H. R. 236 disapproving the Plan.

The Plan transfers to the Secretary all functions of the Department not previously vested in the Secretary excepting those of the Farm Credit Administration, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and the Office of Hearing Examiners. Two additional Assistant Secretaries and an Administrative Assistant Secretary are also authorized.

The Secretary has issued Memorandum No. 1329 in which he reconstituted the Department as it existed immediately prior to the effective date of Reorganization Plan No. 2, 1953. Under this order the Secretary reassigned the functions transferred to him by the Plan to the agencies, officers, and employees in whom the responsibilities rested immediately prior to June 4. All actions of the agencies and officers taken prior to June 4 and still in force immediately prior to that date shall be considered as remaining in force and effect until they are revoked or modified.

Librarian Shaw honored

At the American Library Association meeting at Los Angeles in June the first annual award of the Melvil Dewey medal was given to Dr. Ralph R. Shaw, USDA Librarian. It is awarded for recent creative professional achievement of a high order, particularly in the fields in which Melvil Dewey was notably interested, such as library management and training, cataloging, and classification. "He has extended the usefulness of the National Agricultural Library through two continents and its renown throughout the world," it was declared. The Oberly Memorial Award was also presented to Mrs. Dorothy B. Skau of the USDA Library and Ralph Planck and Frank Pack of BAIC for the best bibliography on agriculture and related sciences.

Jack Ferrall dies

John A. (Jack) Ferrall, who retired from BPISAE in June 1947 after more than 40 years' service, died in Los Angeles, California, June 7, 1953. Jack entered the Government service as a stenographer in 1906. He was a sports enthusiast and took an active part in several. During one period he wrote a sports column for one of the Washington daily papers, as the "Old Timer." He was one of the early backers of the departmental and interdepartmental bowling leagues and the softball and baseball teams. He became deaf many years ago, but was able to carry on very well with his work which at one time included editing a Bureau newsletter. He would have been 73 years old on July 4. During his last illness blood transfusions were necessary, and former associates in BPISAE contributed 21 pints in his name to the Red Cross Bloodmobile at Beltsville which entitled him to a like quantity from the Red Cross at Los Angeles.

Author-editor debate

THE OBVIOUS escape from this common dilemma between author and editor, as noted in the June 17 issue, is for the managing editor to decide whether a manuscript is to be accepted at all. Acceptance should be subject to certain editorial stipulations, according to Roy E. Miller, Office of Information.

These considerations might include questions such as: Is the material scientifically sound? Is it well presented generally? Is it presented in length, arrangement, and form suited to the medium of publication? Is it of timely or permanent interest? If the terms of acceptance are clearly understood, there will be less complaint from the authors.

This should mean, as it usually does, that the editor respects the individuality, scholarship, and dignity of the author. The article, if extremely verbose, confused, and lacking in clearness, would be rejected anyhow. Yet if the results of the research are of unusual value, but the language is unsatisfactory to general taste for scientific literature, then the editor and the author should agree on extensive changing, in Mr. Miller's opinion.

"It is rare for a modern editor to make changes merely by whim or for personal choice of idiom and style," he concludes. "Most prefer the writing of the author to their own, if for no other reason than to protect themselves and their journals from monotony and decline."

One statement in the editor's side of the controversy as published in our June 17 issue displeased F. D. Richey, principal agronomist, Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases, stationed at Knoxville, Tenn. "I was particularly riled by their remark that publication in a standard journal is a favor to an author. In general the costs of publication are paid for by the subscribers and memberships of those who furnished the articles. These costs are not paid for by the editors, although they apparently think they run the journal. I have had well-written manuscripts so changed to suit the whims of an editor as to completely lose the desired emphasis."

Maybelle Smith retires

After nearly 35 years of Federal service, Mrs. Maybelle Smith, statistician with the Commodity Exchange Authority, retired on May 31. She was complimented by Administrator J. M. Mehl. Coming to Washington, D. C., from Illinois, she entered the Federal Trade Commission service in 1918. She has successively worked for the Forest Service and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Readers' reminders

USDA–F. & D. agreement

Copies of memorandum of agreement on operating policies between the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Production and Marketing Administration of USDA have been mimeographed. Interested readers may write the editor of *USDA*.

Bowling interviewed

On page 116 of the May 1953 number of *The Fleet Owner*, published by McGraw-Hill Co., appears an interview with Charles B. Bowling, Chief of the Traffic Management Division, Transportation and Warehouse Branch of PMA. Illustrated with candid camera photos of Mr. Bowling, the interview is in question and answer form. He takes the stand that the outlook favors greater tonnages of fresh products transported by reefer trucks to potential consuming markets.

Fertilizer survey

Consumption, distribution, and composition of commercial fertilizers in the United States and its Territories are annually issued by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering. Walter Scholl and Hilda M. Wallace, the authors, have completed the current issue, which is now available from the Division of Fertilizer and Agricultural Lime, PISAE, Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md.

BAIC research resources

A special explanatory document, No. AIC–341, briefly tells the story of the research resources of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. It relates to the four Regional Research Laboratories and 11 other Branch Stations. Write to Dr. Walter M. Scott, Assistant Chief, BAIC, South Building, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

Cicada story

In the July *National Geographic Magazine* there is a good article on cicadas. It has one picture showing Louise Roberts, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, explaining cicada life habits to school pupils.

V–E sick swine

Some recommended measures to take in handling swine in market or transportation to prevent the spread of vesicular exanthema have been sent to a select list by Dr. B. T. Simms, Chief, Bureau of Animal Industry. The suggestions made are for practical use by public stockyards, packing plants, State livestock sanitary officers, and veterinary inspectors. Write to BAI's Information Division if you have direct need of such material.

Bug bringers

Don't overlook the chance of your toting back dangerous plant insects if you go abroad this season. Avoid returning home with strange plants or soil that harbors such injurious foreign pests. But if you must collect certain species of plants, write for your official permit to Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, 209 River Street, Hoboken, N. J.

Armed Forces rations

A handbook of reference for determining quantities of food in the various packaged rations used by the U. S. Armed Forces is newly revised in mimeograph form by Office of Requirements and Facilities, Production and Marketing Administration. Data derived from publishing military specifications and Quartermaster purchase descriptions were used by the complier, Hazel H. Moore, Analysis and Statistical Division.

Brief and choice

Moore elected

L. A. Moore, Bureau of Dairy Industry, was elected vice president of the American Dairy Science Association at its meeting in Madison, Wis., late in June.

Triangle club

USDA's Masonic fraternity, the Triangle Club reports increased membership. The present officers are Harry C. Cook, Sol, president; Arch Pjerrou, PMA, vice president; George E. Hanna, BEPQ, secretary; Leonard Conyers, FCA, treasurer; Walter Ettleman, REA, chaplain.

Walters resigns

Allyn Walters, who had charge of current information for the Rural Electrical Administration for several years was called to a 2-year tour of active duty last month as a lieutenant colonel of the U. S. Air Force. Mr. Walters is a native of Binghamton, N. Y., and is widely known by REA cooperatives and newspaper editors throughout the country.

Unusual leadership

Agricultural Conservation Programs reports that the secretary of the Sanpete County, Utah, ACP committee, Arch Mellar, has kept on aiding his fellow members in administering the local program from his bedside. Although in a seriously ill condition, Mr. Mellar has carried on under adverse circumstances because of deep devotion to duty.

Two get degrees

Doctor of Science degrees were conferred in June to Dr. Percy A. Wells, Head Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, and Dr. Charles H. Fisher, Head Southern Regional Research Laboratory. The Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science and Tulane University, New Orleans, conferred the respective degrees.

Miss Helander retires

Miss Agnes E. Helander retired in May after more than 33 years of Federal service. She came to the Department soon after passage of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act in June 1930, and has since served with the Regulatory Division handling this work.

A bollworm building

Texas Southmost College at Brownsville is building a 25-room office and laboratory structure to be leased to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine for a center of research against the pink bollworm.

Corn and hog garments

During the luncheon given for President Eisenhower on May 26 at the Agricultural Research Center, four USDA girls modeled garments of new materials devised by research chemists of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. Joan Brown, College Park, Md., wore a plastic raincoat made in part of inedible fat from hogs. Shirley Pfeiffer modeled a green jersey dress and a yellow coat made from corn by a process worked out at BAIC's Northern Regional Research Laboratory. Betty Richter, Washington, wore a flowered party dress fashioned from three 100-pound fertilizer bags. Marjorie Cook, Mount Rainer, Md., wore slacks and sport jacket made from the new linen-like cotton from the Southern Regional Research Laboratory.

Featuring futures

Hearings by the Commodity Exchange Authority on evidence respecting speculative limits on positions and daily trading in cottonseed oil, soybean oil, and lard futures took a recess to reopen in Chicago on July 13.

For FS writers

Findings of a study of Forest Service writings and communications made for the School of Forestry at the Utah State Agricultural College and Region Four of the U. S. Forest Service are carried in a processed report by Wendell M. Keck, Ph.D., associate professor of English at Utah State College. He says that their reports were notably free from "federalese" and other occupational jargon, and recommendations made were received favorably. *USDA* has no copies of this study.

Blaze beginners

Man-caused fires in the national forests as a whole increased 21 percent over the 1947–51 average, and only Regions 3 and 5 of the U. S. Forest Service showed decreases in human fire starting. The total of recorded forest fires in 1952 numbered 11,965. This meant an increase of 1,648 fires above the 1951 fires totaling 10,385. In 1952 man was responsible for starting 7,021 forest conflagrations with lightning the cause of 4,994 of them. For the recent 5-year average man-caused fires numbered 5,763, so that much remains to be done by Smokey Bear.

Wood siding decay study

Certain building practices conducive to siding decay due to presence of fungus infections that increase decay in siding for houses erected in the South are studied in detail by A. F. Verral, Division of Forest Pathology, PISAE, in cooperation with the Southern Forest Experiment Station. The main factors of this study, based in part on a project of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, are found in Special Release No. 39, obtainable direct from the Division of Forest Pathology, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

Farm phone rates

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics in a special survey finds that farmers paid 7 percent more for telephone services in 1952 than the year previous. Based on returns from 21,000 farmers throughout the country, it was found that about 40 percent of all U. S. farms had telephone facilities. The average monthly rate for the country in 1952 was $4.62, including long-distance tolls.

Poultry market school

A training school for salesmen, technicians, public relations people and others in the packaging industry who contact poultrymen and processors will be held at the University, College Park, Md., September 9–11. USDA personnel and several container manufacturers and poultry councils are sponsors of the course. O. F. Johndrew, Poultry Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, has details for those interested.

Feather meal

Waste feathers, once a drag on poultry processing plants, are now made into a practical and useful organic nitrogen meal for fertilizers and other industrial outlets. The Western Regional Research Laboratory at Albany, Calif., is the originating source of the rendering process and G. H. Brother in its Protein Division, has written a research achievement sheet about this matter. Ask for RAS–161 from the Office of Administrator, ARA, USDA.

Praise for good help

In reference to daily calls from their New York office regarding data to be secured from USDA, Thomas W. Brahany of Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Bean of Washington, D. C., has always contacted the Inquiries and Publications Division, Office of Information, for answers. He wrote to Secretary Benson as follows: "I have occasion to get information from other departments of Government for our New York office engaged in securities research. I can truthfully say that in none of them is the response to legitimate inquiries more courteous, intelligent, and helpful than in your Division of Inquiries and Publications.

Duggan resigns

I. W. Duggan, Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, resigned effective June 30 to become vice president of the Trust Compay of Georgia. Mr. Duggan became Governor of FCA in 1944 after 1 year as Deputy Governor. He started his Government work in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in 1934 as an economist and later became director of the Southern Division of AAA.

Mr. Duggan is returning to Georgia where he began his career as an agricultural teacher at Ashburn and county agent in Turner County. Later he was professor of agricultural Economics at Clemson (S. C.) and Mississippi State Colleges. He has B. S. and D. Sc. degrees from Clemson College and his M. S. from Ohio State University. He has been a director of the Graduate School of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and served as lieutenant in the U. S. Army in World War I.

Corn under cover

Shortages of corn storage facilities in the face of another big crop highlights the wide need for an intensive educational effort, in which Cooperative Extension forces assume a major part. State extension services and USDA agencies are engaged in a vigorous program to explain the storage situation to farmers and urge them to re-seal on their farms the corn they have secured loans upon, and provide storage for the 1953 crop. The main activity is in States with acute situations—Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Illinois, and Missouri.

"Prof" Halpin retires

James G. Halpin, for over 44 years an outstanding poultry scientist and practical poultryman, retired in May 1953 from the chairmanship of the University of Wisconsin Poultry Department. A few of his discoveries made with the help of the college biochemists, veterinarians, and geneticists included the early recognition of mineral supplements for poultry; that artificial lights increase egg output; the discovery of vitamin D with Dr. Harry Steenbock, and its use in winter rations; development of strains immune to several common diseases; and authorship of a chick feeding circular that has had the greatest distribution of any single poultry bulletin from State experiment stations.

Hollyhock watchers

Since specimens of imported cotton stemmoth were found in New York State by Government entomologists a couple of years ago, vigilance has been the rule lest it get into its host plant the hollyhock or plants of this species growing in the cotton belt. If that happens this close relative of the pink bollworm might eventually attack cotton through its second generation larvae. Hence surveys of moth larvae found boring hollyhock stems or fruits is in order this summer, all suspect specimens being sent to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine office at Greenfield, Mass.

Scholl retires

Gus J. Scholl, Equipment Engineer with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine at San Antonio, Texas, retired in March at the age of 70. Since the beginning of Federal pink bollworm control work in 1917, Mr. Scholl has been almost constantly associated with that activity in State or Bureau work in Texas. He is a coinventor of a machine for inspecting gin trash of cotton to locate pink bollworm infestations, and of another cottonseed heating machine used in gins to destroy the pink bollworm in cottonseed.

RIF amended

Under the amendment to the reduction in force regulations of May 29, each bureau is a separate competitive area and initiates RIF procedures under delegated authority. When it comes to reassignment rights on a Department-wide scale, Office of Personnel has the responsibility. However, Pers says that it has no convenient setup for doing this work in the field and branch offices—so some adjustment must be arranged.

Dress comfortably

Has the USDA arrived at any definite ruling as to what is regarded as the proper way to dress for office work in hot summertime? The answer to that as developed in a recent meeting of our personnel people is that any style or mode of clothing for summer wear is permissible and proper just so long as a decent regard for modesty prevails. The employees of both the Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce have been told that comfortable and informal summer dress is always in order, probably in the general interest of efficient work.

95 and 55 deadline

In the Washington, D. C., offices of the Department it has been the custom to rule that 95° F. in temperature with 55 percent humidity when occurring at any work hour in the summer season are a good excuse for dismissal for health and comfort security. Under such a rule no letoffs were allowed in 1952, but Office of Personnel claims they got numerous uncomplimentary phone calls in respect to the heat nuisance. It still remains the policy not to close up shop for warm weather reasons, even though it is understood that certain office locations are conducive to more discomfort for employees than for others elsewhere in the same agency.

Minimum requirements

Agency heads have been given personal attention to finance plans for fiscal 1955, under direction of Secretary Benson to have all budget estimates reflect minimum requirements and outlays. Development of recommendations for final submission to the Bureau of the Budget is in charge of Ralph S. Roberts, USDA Budget Officer, with J. Earl Coke, Assistant Secretary, as chairman of the committee composed of John H. Davis, Romeo E. Short, Richard D. Aplin, and R. L. Farrington.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JULY 29, 1953

New leave law

CONGRESS APPROVED the conference report on H. R. 4654, which relates to annual leave requirements. Its provisions go into effect in general as of August 31, 1953.

Among other things, this bill repeals the so-called Thomas amendment, which required that annual leave earned in one calendar year be used before June 30 of the succeeding year, or forfeited. The bill also reduces from *60* to *30* days the amount of annual leave which an employee may accumulate, and changes from the *end of the last* complete biweekly pay period to the *beginning of the first* complete biweekly pay period the date on which maximum leave accumulations will be computed. The annual leave ceiling of an employee who at the end of the last complete pay period in 1952 was in excess of 30 days is not affected, but the use during any leave year of an amount in excess of the employee's accrual will automatically reduce the maximum allowable accumulation.

After August 31, terminal leave payments will be restricted. They can't exceed 30 days for those employees who had less than 30 days of leave as of January 1, 1953, or the exact amounts for leave as of January 1 for those employees who had more than 30 days on that date.

The heads of departments and agencies are authorized and directed to take such action as may be necessary to bring about, within a reasonable number of years and consistent with the exigencies of the public business, reductions in the accumulated annual leave to the credit of employees which is in excess of the 30 days now allowed. The Civil Service Commission shall include in its annual report to the Congress a statement of the progress made in achieving these reductions. This in turn means more work for the departments and agencies figuring out the net reductions in annual leave as time goes on.

Book cooperation

IN 1950 the College of Agriculture of the University of Nebraska and the USDA Library engaged in a cooperative program to provide general library services to the staff of the Department formerly served from the Department's Branch Library at Lincoln. This plan worked successfully and has now been extended so that substantially all general library services for USDA's field personnel are provided by cooperative arrangement with Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations.

The University of California College of Agriculture at Davis serves the Department staff on the west coast; Oklahoma A. & M. College at Stillwater serves the staff in the Southwest; the University of Florida Experiment Station at Gainsville serves the Southeast; the University of Rhode Island at Kingston serves the Northeast; and the University of Nebraska continues to serve the North Central States. The Forest Products Laboratory Branch at Madison, Wis., will continue to provide general services to the Department staff in the North Central States. The research library branches at Beltsville, at the four regional laboratories of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, and at the Forest Products laboratories continue to be operated as part of the research institutions which they serve.

This new arrangement provides for good general library services to the staff of the Department at somewhat less than half the cost of maintaining separate USDA branches and in return provides some important services, such as free photocopying service to the cooperating institutions.

Cardon degreed again

Dr. P. V. Cardon received an honorary doctor of science degree in June at the University of Montana. He is director of the Graduate School, and former administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration.

Test your history

HEREWITH APPEAR casual references at random to events in the lives of a few former USDA leaders—Commissioners of Patents, Superintendents of Agriculture, Commissioners of Agriculture, and Secretaries of Agriculture—and you are to try and name each one. (Present officers of the Department are not included.) Answers will be found in the Readers' Reminders column. Data comes from the *USDA* Document No. 3, revised June 2, 1953, a mimeograph contribution originally prepared by T. Swann Harding and associates.

1. What Commissioner of Patents, then heading up agricultural work, was the son of the third Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court?

2. What Commissioner of Patents was born in England and began life as an apprentice in the sheet-metal trade?

3. What Superintendent of the Agricultural Division, Patent Office, was a mining engineer who studied chemistry in France with DuLong, Robinquet, and Gay-Lussac, and who resigned because of his southern sympathies in 1861 to enter the Confederate Government service?

4. What Commissioner of Agriculture bought a Virginia farm of 1,000 acres in Prince William County but never lived there because his wife refused to move; and thereupon he sought a Government job in Washington? This same character sent President Fillmore a prize calf which was exhibited in the United States Capitol.

5. Who was the last Commissioner and also the first Secretary of Agriculture, who had founded a farm journal at St. Louis?

6. What Secretary of Agriculture ran a tavern and stage line, was brevetted brigadier general at the end of the Civil War, later becoming governor of his State—and a good one?

7. What Secretary of Agriculture was president of Texas A. & M. College and served as Secretary of the Treasury after leaving Agriculture?

8. What Secretary of Agriculture was born in Idaho, left that State for Montana to be a dairy helper and later was a cerealist in USDA?

Flood to Italy

Francis A. Flood, Assistant Director of Foreign Agricultural Service, left in July to be Agricultural Counselor for the Department of State at Rome, Italy. He had served as agricultural attaché at Ottawa, Canada, prior to his most recent period with FAS. Another foreign service career man, John J. Haggerty, will be stationed at Bonn, Germany, as agricultural attaché.

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Foreign service

EMPLOYEES SERVING in overseas assignments as carried on the active roster by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service will be listed in a series of issues hereafter. The first section herewith as of June 15 pertains to foreign technicians employed in the Near East and Africa areas. In each case after the names appear the indicated previous employment, legal residence, and present position in the foreign service. Those who have just completed or will soon complete their assignments are not included.

Egypt—W. A. HARTMAN, USDA–PMA, Georgia, Chief Agriculturist. E. G. JOHNSON, USDA–SCS, Wisconsin, Drainage Expert. W. W. HOLMAN, private industry, Missouri, Extension Specialist. BRADFORD KNAPP, USDA–BAI, Montana, Livestock Specialist. A. J. SCHWANTES, Minn. Univ., Minnesota, Farm Machinery Specialist. L. A. BROWN, Dept. of the Army, Nevada, Soil Salinity Specialist. J. E. NORDBY, USDA–BAI, Idaho, Head, Anim. Husbandry Improvement. L. E. WEAVER, retired annuitant, New York, Poultry Extension Specialist. W. E. WINTERMEYER, USDA–BDI, Pennsylvania, Dairy Husbandry. RUTH ETHRIDGE, Univ. of Miss., Mississippi, Home Economist. F. S. INGERSOLL, private industry, Illinois, Hybrid Corn Specialist. H. H. HANSON, Voc. School, Texas, Livestock Specialist.

Iran—R. W. ROSKELLEY, Utah State College, Utah, Chief Agriculturist. C. S. STEPHANIDES, USDA–FAS, Virginia, Head, Anim. Husbandry Branch. F. A. RALSTON, Mont. Ext. Service, Montana, Anim. Husbandry Specialist. J. R. DAWSON, USDA–BDI, Pennsylvania, Dairy Specialist. H. S. KERNAN, self-employed, New York, Forester. GEORGE STEWART, USDA–FS, Utah, Head, Agronomy Branch. B. G. THOMPSON, Oreg. Exp. Station, Oregon, Entomologist. M. J. REGAN, Univ of Mo., Missouri, Asst. Chief Agr. Division. ROY SELLERS, Office of Price Stabilization, Alabama, Chief, Cooperative Div. E. R. HALBROOK, Mont. Exp. Station. L. R. SHORT, USDA–FS, Montana, Range Specialist. H. C. Larsen, USDA–PMA, Wisconsin, Financial Advisor. STANLEY DRAKE, National Production Authority, Massachusetts, Wool Specialist. G. T. BOTTGER, USDA, BEPQ, California, Entomologist. C. E. SKIVAR, self-employed, Kansas, Agronomist. M. E. HEATH, self-employed, Florida, Agronomist. G. H. ENFIELD, Purdue Univ., Indiana, Agronomist. L. J. HORLACHER, Dean, Univ. of Ky., Kentucky, Agr. College Advisor. J. D. ELLIOTT, S. W. Texas Teachers Coll., New York, Farm Machinery Specialist. P. K. HOOKER, USDA–EXT, Maryland, Extension Agent. J. E. CHRISTIAN, Georgia Ext. Service, Georgia, Extension Agent. V. C. HENDRICKSON, Co. Agent, Univ. of Wis., Wisconsin, Extension Agent. A. N. RENSHAW, Jr., Co. Agent, Univ. of Tenn., Tennessee, Extension Agent.

Iraq—C. H. HAMMAR, U. S. High Comm. for Germany, Minnesota, Chief Agriculturist. M. E. OLSON, Co. Agent, Iowa State Col., Iowa, Extension Specialist. R. W. GILL, Voc. Agr. Teacher, Montana, Voc. Agr. Instructor. S. H. CAIN, Jr., unemployed, Texas, Cotton Specialist. S. C. SHULL, Univ. of Maryland, Maryland, Agricultural Marketing Specialist. F. A. CRANSTON, High school teacher, Montana, Farm Machinery Repair Engineer. F. R. Bradford, self-employed, Tennessee, Anim. Husbandry Specialist. J. H. MIKKELSON, Mont. Extension Service, Montana, Extension Specialist. H. W. SPRINGFIELD, USDA–FS, New Mexico, Agrostologist. B. J. BARNES, USDA–BPISAE, Texas, Agronomist. BERTHA STRANGE, Arizona State College, Arizona, Home Economist. C. B. DARDEN, self-employed, North Carolina, Tobacco Specialist. M. H. BUTTON, private industry, Wisconsin, General Agriculturist. H. A. BECK, USDA–SCS, Indiana, Agronomist. F. H. ROBINSON, retired annuitant, Texas, Agricultural Economist. J. R. MORRIS, Olaa Sugar Co., Hawaii, Extension Specialist. E. F. WEIGLE, Iowa State College, Iowa, Extension Specialist. H. K. BOTCH, Mont. Ext. Service, Montana, Extension Specialist.

Israel—R. S. BESSE, Oregon State College, Oregon, Experiment Station Administrator. W. W. SMITH, Utah State College, Utah, Bacteriologist. FORD M. MILAM, Dept. of the Army to India, West Virginia, Research Methodologist.

Jordan—E. W. WHITMAN, Univ. of Idaho, Idaho, Chief Agriculturist. E. MORTENSEN, Texas Agr. Experiment Station, Texas, Horticulturist. C. WALKER, private industry, Oregon, Farm Machinery Specialist. E. F. VESTAL, Iowa State College, Iowa, Plant Pathologist. J. W. ALLEN, USDA–BAI, Texas, Veterinarian. H. S. WILLARD, Univ. of Wyoming, Wyoming, Anim. Husbandry Specialist.

Lebanon—C. MCKEE, Montana State College, Montana, Chief Agriculturist. M. MCDONALD, Iowa State College, Iowa, Agr. Extension Specialist. C. Y. CANNON, Iowa State College, Iowa, Animal Husbandman. V. V. BOWMAN, USDA–PMA, Virginia, Farm Marketing Specialist. D. L. DUBOIS, Dept. of the Interior, Oregon, Irrigation Engineer. G. L. TERMAN, Univ. of Maine, Maine, Agronomist. T. E. SHAW, Purdue Univ., Indiana, Forestry Specialist. C. T. BEECHWOOD, U. S. Army Civilian Serv., Pennsylvania, Veterinarian. E. K. RAMBO, Univ. of Arkansas for India, transferred, Arkansas, Farm Machinery Specialist. R. I. LANCASTER, USDA–Extension, Oklahoma, Poultry Specialist. A. I. TANNOUS, USDA–FAS, Virginia, Rural Sociologist.

Liberia—F. E. PINDER, TCA, State Dept., Pennsylvania, Chief Agriculturist. D. BANKS, Voc. Agr. Teacher, Alabama, Vocational Agr. Specialist. C. C. BLICKENSTAFF, USDA–BEPQ, Iowa, Entomologist. C. C. LEWIS, Maryland State College, Maryland, Soil Specialist. T. HOLSOE, West. Va. University, West Va., Forester. C. E. PEGG, JR., Dept. of the Army, Colorado, Animal Husbandman. L. F. HOUGH, Rutgers Univ., New Jersey, Plant Breeder. C. A. WALTON, Texas A&M College. Texas, Agr. Production Specialist. W. T. HARRIS, Negro County Agent, Extension Service, Georgia, Agr. Production Specialist. S. J. MCCORVEY, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, Agr. Production Specialist. L. E. FORT, TCA, State Dept., Florida, Agr. Production Specialist. F. G. DAVIS, Univ. of Maryland, Maryland, Credit Adviser. F. S. BUCHANAN, Univ. of Idaho, Idaho, Research Director.

Libya—V. D. BAILEY, Exp. Station El Salvador, Colorado, Chief Agriculturist. F. W. BARBER, Florida Ext. Serv., Florida, Agr. Extension Officer. R. E. RUSSELL, Voc. Agr. Teacher, Missouri, Voc. Agriculture. W. M. BUCK, USDA–PMA, Pennsylvania, Wool Technician. G. K. FRAMSTAD, South Dakota College, South Dakota, Agr. Extension Officer. A. J. REHLING, Univ. of Illinois, Illinois, Agr. Extension Officer. A. ENRIQUEZ, unemployed, New Mexico, Agr. Extension Officer. R. F. JONES, Alabama Ext. Serv., Alabama, Agr. Extension Officer. M. GALLI, Nevada Ext. Serv., Nevada, Anim. Husbandry Specialist. H. E. JENKINS, Texas A&M College, Texas, Agr. Extension Officer. L. E. HATCH, Dept. of the Interior, Arizona, Forester. R. W. ABBOTT, Wisconsin Ext. Serv., Wisconsin, Forester. C. M. RICHARDSON, private industry, Kentucky, Anim. Husbandry Specialist. L. W. GOYNE, Vocational Services, Texas, Voc. Agr. Teacher.

Saudi Arabia—Mr. EDENS, Arkansas State College, Arkansas, Chief Agriculturist. T. J. MOON, citrus nursery, Texas, Specialist in Farm Irrigation. R. O. PARKER, private industry, Oklahoma, Animal and Poultry Specialist.

Regional—W. B. MABEE, USDA–BEPQ, Nevada, Program Director for Locust Control. R. B. THRAILKILL, USDA–BEPQ, Montana, Assistant Program Director. EDITH MCCHESNEY, TCA State Dept., Washington, D. C., Locust Control Officer. J. W. KELLY II, USDA–BEPQ, Georgia, Unit Supervisor. W. C. KURTZ, USDA–BEPQ, Massachusetts, Unit Supervisor.

Room and work for all

SOMETHING VITAL has been stated in a recent issue of the Department of Labor's Safety Standards, a magazine devoted to the saving of life in workplaces. It relates to the membership and purposeful achievements of internal organizations set up by employees for their benefit and improvement, such as our Federal safety councils.

Within any organization there are two types of members, the statement declares, who either fail to contribute or fail to gain from the routine meetings of the group. We quote:

> The first is the "joiner." He is a person who gets into an organization solely for what he can get out of it. He is not much interested in contributing to the welfare and progress of the group. He is there mainly to pick the brains of fellow members or to gain prestige from his association with them.
>
> Since any organization can only be as good as the effort put into it, each typical "joiner" tends to weaken the group. They lack the good old Christmas spirit—the spirit of giving.
>
> Just as the spirit of giving is essential to the progress of a group, so a willingness to receive is necessary if an individual attains the greatest benefit from participating. There are those of us, who, because of long standing in the field in question, may become convinced that the councils have nothing to offer to us. We think we can solve our own problems. This is an unfortunate state of mind, and an unfair one for fellow workers.
>
> Regardless of the many answers we may have, there is always a possibility of learning, especially by an exchange of ideas in such groups. And we are the loser if we close our minds and refuse to learn further. This attitude is unfair to others because by holding ourselves apart, we deny to others the benefit of our knowledge and experience.

It goes on to say that between those who want only to gain and those who feel they have nothing to gain are the rest of us. It is our spirit of impatience that hurts. The familiar complaints are heard, such as "the meetings aren't as good as they used to be" and "we don't seem to accomplish anything." In the first case, the early meetings have glamor because they are new; this fades fast but the accomplishments are often steadier. In the second case, accomplishment is often long and hard, and it cannot be measured in terms of one meeting, or of several. But every little bit of work and every little effort piles up, meeting after meeting, project after project. By sticking to it, they believe, success can be finally achieved.

Milk market study

INQUIRY INTO the details of handling Federal milk orders in the 49 different city market zones where the Department operates through the Dairy Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration has been proceeding through a special committee named by Secretary Ezra Taft Benson. The object is to clarify and improve the existing regulations and methods where feasible without harm to the fundamental purpose of market stability, producer welfare, and consumer satisfaction.

These milk orders are instituted only after formal applications are filed and public hearings are held in the affected areas. The first milk "licenses" and "marketing agreements" were put into force back in 1933 when the original Agricultural Adjustment Administration was the supervisory and administrative agent of the Department. Since then certain features of the laws pertaining to milk zone stability have been modified and amended in the light of experience.

As of April 1953, 181,430 milk producers supplied milk to distributors and dealers on the 49 markets where Federal orders are in effect. The six largest producer groups were as follows: New York area, 49,767; Chicago, 23,890; Boston, 12,867; Detroit, 12,684; Philadelphia, 8,047; and Minneapolis-St. Paul, 5,860. Average daily quantity of receipts of milk from producers on all markets in April 1953 was about 79 million pounds. This was an average of 436 pounds per day from each producer.

Total average daily amount of whole milk sold on these markets was 35,505,000 pounds, not counting fluid cream. More than 2 million pounds of fluid skim milk were also sold daily on all the markets. Milk utilized in fluid form represented about 60 percent of the total producer receipts on all markets this April compared with almost 67 percent in April 1952.

E. R. Draheim, Office of Personnel, was elected president of the Society for Personnel Administration. A reception for the new officers of this organization was held on June 23 at the Willard Hotel.

Herbert Marti dies

Herbert F. Marti, who worked for the Federal Government for over 35 years, and who had planned to retire on June 30, 1953, died suddenly of a heart attack on June 26. Mr. Marti started his career with the Government as a mechanical draftsman for the old Bureau of Chemistry on June 29, 1918. He later went with the Exhibits Service when it was under the Extension Service, and transferred with the rest of the Exhibits Service employees when this work was taken into the Office of Information in 1942. Mr. Marti was laid to rest in his native home community at Saginaw, Mich.

Readers' reminders

Covers a big span

Dr. Carl C. Taylor of Foreign Agriculture Service, formerly with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, has written a new book entitled "The Farmers' Movement, 1620 to 1920." He has spent considerable time this year in conference with Point IV directors in the Middle and Far East.

Please note

Only one of the previously mentioned teaching outlines from Soil Conservation Service is available now. It is PA–201 An Outline for Teaching Conservation in High Schools. The one listed heretofore about teaching conservation in elementary schools has not been issued.

Test your history answers

1. Henry L. Ellsworth, native of Connecticut, son of Justice Oliver Ellsworth. 2. Thomas Ewbank of New York. 3. Thomas Green Clemson, founder of Clemson College, South Carolina. 4. Isaac Newton, named to the post by President Lincoln. 5. Norman J. Colman of Missouri, founder of Colman's Rural World. 6. Jeremiah M. Rusk, Wisconsin farmer. 7. David J. Houston of North Carolina. 8. William M. Jardine, named by President Coolidge. Limited copies of the Document No. 3 are obtainable from the editor of *USDA* but we do not send more than one if possible to each inquirer.

Purchasing co-ops

Regional cooperatives specializing in farm supplies, numbering 53 in several States, did a 1950–51 annual business of over $110,000,000. In addition, 62 regional marketing co-ops buying less than $5,000,000 in supplies a year did $52,000,000 of business. Cooperative Research and Service Division of Farm Credit Administration has Miscellaneous Report No. 171 about the operations of these regionals. It is written by Martin Abrahamsen and Anne L. Gessner. Apply to Director of Information and Extension, FCA, South Building, USDA.

Two new soybeans

Two new soybean varieties developed by USDA plant breeders and their State associates are listed as the Jackson, most suitable for the Southeast region, and Clark, to be released to seed growers in 1954 by agricultural experiment stations in Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri. This makes 12 varieties in a series of superior soybeans for the different production areas that have been developed in the past 12 years. For details on them ask *USDA* editor for 1396 (Clark) and 1509 (Jackson).

Dated periodicals

The Government Printing Office issues at intervals work schedules for all the regular dated periodicals authorized for publication in the various departments. The schedule gives the date for providing copy and illustrations and thence on through to the completed date of delivery. Responsible persons are expected to adhere to the schedule.

Tractor plows save forests

Forest Service announcement says that in the South from January 1 to November 1, 1952, 1,266 of the 2,820 forest fires were brought under control with tractor plows. Each three-man plow unit is said to equal 12 to 20 men with hand tools on the firelines. Get details of the effective work done by tractor plows by asking *USDA* editor for No. 1535.

Brief and choice

Air observers wanted

Secretary Benson in a memorandum to heads of all Department agencies asks them to give full support to the Ground Observer Corps program of sighting and detecting enemy aircraft: He requests anyone who is able to do so should volunteer at the nearest office of State Civilian Defense or the United States Air Force Filter Center.

Sound criteria

Experience has established the soundness of the collection policy of the Federal land banks and the national farm loan associations. Leaders point out that the governing principles in the Farm Credit Administration policy are: Is the borrower doing his honest best? Is he taking care of the security? Is he applying a fair share of the farm income, above living expenses, to a reduction of the debt? Is he capable of working out from under a reasonable debt burden?

Vacancy procedure

The official procedure that necessitated getting the approval of the Office of the Secretary before filling any vacancies in the Department is canceled by Secretary's Memo that became effective on July 1. Hereafter, Bureau chiefs or their designated officers will determine before making any new appointment if (1) a position becoming vacant can be eliminated, and (2) if present employees can be shifted to fill the vacancy.

Flea farming

Scientists must have living insects on which to try various new forms of repellants and insecticides. At the Orlando, Fla., laboratory of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, oriental rat fleas are propagated on the white rat in large numbers and ordinary cat fleas are multiplied on dogs. All the methods and materials used are set forth for other flea raisers in ET–308, issued by EPQ. Householders already well supplied with fleas wouldn't find this useful.

Cranberry preferences

In studies at Topeka, Kans., and Boston, Mass., last fall market researchers from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Farm Credit Administration found out which package the consumer of cranberries preferred—the 1-pound cellophane bag or the 1-pound window box package. Consumers left to their free choice bought 3 cellophane bags of cranberries to every window-box package. Those favoring the bags said they could see the berries better while those who bought the window-box packages thought they afforded more protection.

Revise travel allowances

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has informed its employees of a revision in the presently inadequate per diem and mileage rate allowances, effective July 1, 1953, as follows: Per diem—$9 per day for travel in excess of 24 hours when performed by a common carrier or by privately owned automobile at a mileage rate of 4½ cents, with per diem allowance not to exceed travel time by common carrier; $8 per day for travel less than 24 hours, when traveling in privately owned automobile at 7 cents per mile; and/or when traveling by State or Federal car—except that the $9 per diem rate will apply in cities previously authorized; per diem in one locality will be limited to $6 for periods of 30 to 60 days and $5 for periods of 30 to 90 days, unless special circumstances would warrant specific approval. The 4½ cents per mile is for point-to-point travel by privately owned automobile and the 7 cents per mile is for rural travel or when more than one employee travel together.

Messenger to executive

Henry G. Herrell, first employed in the Department as a messenger in 1927 at 17 years, is now promoted to assistant chief of the Bureau of Entomolog, and Plant Quarantine, in charge of administration. He succeeds Ralph A. Sheals, who retired June 30 after 35 years of Federal work.

Mixed feed business

Geographic importance and growth of the mixed feed industry has long deserved a special examination. Through Marketing Research Report No. 38, a fairly complete picture is given of the volume and trade problems in this rising industry. Two workers in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics are its authors—W. R. Askew and V. John Brensike. Limited copies may be had from BAE's Publications and Information Section, or at a price of 10 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office.

Miss Scudder's new post

Frances Scudder, leader of New York State home demonstration work since 1944, is the new Chief of the Division of Home Economics Programs in the Extension Service here. She had been employed by Extension Service since last December on a consultant basis. During World War II she headed up nutrition work for the Emergency Food Commission in New York City. She won a superior service award from USDA in 1951.

More certified seed

According to the annual compilation of certified seed stocks produced by State crop improvement associations and other official agencies, the grand total figures are as follows: Acreage of seed certified, 1,729,639; bushels certified, 65,654,588; pounds certified, 135,509,700; total stolens, 3,540,000; and 29,634,000 certified strawberry plants. J. M. Saunders, extension agronomist, USDA Extension Service, is author of the listings.

Dixie tops for pulp

For the third consecutive year the South's 63 pulpmills broke all previous production records to again lead the Nation. The Southern Forest Experiment Station reports a total Southern cut of 14,564,000 cords of pulpwood. That is exactly 58 percent of the United States output last year.

Awards handers out

Under Secretary True D. Morse named these persons to serve on the Department Efficiency Awards Committee: N. R. Bear, Office of Personnel, chairman, James H. McCormick, Office of Information; John L. Wells, Budget and Finance; with E. E. Kriegesman, Pers, as executive secretary. Their duty is to consider and recommend to the agencies those entitled to get efficiency awards and cash awards for suggestions for amounts in excess of $100. The committee has general supervision of the entire employee awards program, including ways to stimulate new interest and participation.

May employment

Full-time employment of USDA numbered 58,036 on May 31, 1953. This compares with 56,412 one month earlier. Part-time and intermittent employment declined slightly, from 13,589 in April to 13,541 in May. With both regular and part-time employment as well as employment outside of the United States included, the total paid employment was 71,625, or a gain of 1,672 since April 30, 1953. Separations within the United States totaled 1,496 for full-time employees in May, with the greatest percentage lying within the resignations category.

Nonpublic research funds

The statistics in the annual report of the agricultural experiment stations show that a trifle more than $5,000,000 was made available in fiscal 1952 through special endowments, industrial fellowships and similar funds from nonpublic sources. The sum is about one-eighth of the total State-appropriated funds derived from public support.

Appreciated plaudit

S. B. Detwiler, Boulder, Colo., in sending to this office for some releases offered to readers, wrote: "June 17 issue of *USDA* is excellent. It is full of interesting items. Good Work!"

Dairy worker honored

Dr. J. W. Thomas, of the Nutrition and Physiology Division, Bureau of Dairy Industry, received the first of three $1,000 awards for outstanding contribution to animal nutrition research presented by the American Feed Manufacturers Association. The award was given at the recent meeting of the American Dairy Science Association at Madison, Wis. A native of Utah, Dr. Thomas studied for degrees at Utah State College, the University of Wisconsin, and Cornell University.

Knipling replaces Bishopp

Dr. F. C. Bishopp, who has been associated with USDA since 1904, has joined the Oscar Johnston Cotton Foundation as a coordinator of Federal, State, and industry sponsored research on the pink bollworm, with headquarters at Brownsville, Tex. He is succeeded as assistant chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantinc by Dr. Edward F. Knipling, who has been leader in the Division of Insects Affecting Man and Animals. He was in charge of the Orlando, Fla., laboratory during World War II, and received the Medal of Merit from the Prcsident of the United States.

Morse emphasizes safety

Under Secretary True D. Morse has asked heads of all Department Agencies to have their field offices cooperate fully with the nearest Federal Field Safety Councils. He suggests that they find out if fully trained first-aid workers are neededd, and then make arrangements to secure instructors to give the basic first-aid course or bring up to date the certificates of those already trained. A list of area safety council officers by States was distributed with the memorandum.

Payroll savings gain

During the period from March to June the employee participation in the payroll savings plan showed an increase of almost 2 percent. It means that about 43 percent of all USDA employees on the rolls are buying United States savings bonds through the payroll allotment system. Secretary Benson wants at least half of the employees to join this plan. Get authorization cards from your personnel office.

Use laws now on books

John H. Davis, Director of Commodity Marketing and Adjustment, said in a talk before the American Seed Trade Association in June: "In the short run we have no choice but to rely heavily on the existing farm programs (nonrecourse loans, purchase agreements, marketing agreemcnts, acreage allotments, and marketing quotas). The farm programs of today are being put to their most severe test. At no time during the past have we had the great volume of production and the piling up of surplus at as fast a rate as at present. * * * It is clear that in the short run this administration must tackle the farm problem with all the vigor at its command, using laws now on the books. It must be our goal to do this in both a more efficient and a more adequate manner, leaving no doubt in the farmer's mind as to our intention on this point."

Honor to Dr. Adams

Dr. Georgian Adams, Experiment Station Administrator (Nutrition) in the Office of Experiment Stations, was made an honorary member of Omicron Nu, national home economics society, at the biennial meeting of that group in Ames, Iowa. Her citation commended her work in furthering research interests in home economics.

Sirens for woods fires

Woods workers and loggers are handy recruits to fight forest fires in the Superior National Forest of Minnesota. To summon them by alert signal to report to their camp for instructions the best method yet found is to install electric sirens on a light airplane. Smoke and explosive bombs were found rather ineffective and somewhat dangerous in prior experiments. The airplane dispatchers have maps of the logging areas with estimated numbers of their crews by means of which the siren calls are made effective—also for warning firefighters who face danger from being trapped or locating persons lost in the woods.

Pauly retirement

Elmer G. Pauly, PMA, has retired after 31 years in the Government Service. He assisted in 1933 in organizing the first county wheat production control associations under the original AAA act. He later was assistant to the Director of the Western Region, AAA, and more recently has been on the staff of the Assistant Administrator, PMA. Before joining Agriculture Mr. Pauly was Assistant Chief of the Far Eastern Division of the Commerce Department and was an advisor on Pacific problems to the First International Conference on the Limitation of Armaments. He was later appointed United States Commercial Attaché and served at several Far Eastern posts. He is the author of numerous published works on Australasia. Mr. and Mrs. Pauly plan to travel abroad extensively before settling down in California.

Mapman Wright retires

Representatives of a dozen Federal departments and agencies attended the farewell party for Marshall S. Wright, Assistant to the Director, Office of Plant and Operations, who retired June 30. A native of Idaho, Mr. Wright's first Government job was in 1915 as a cadastral engineer in the Department of the Interior doing land surveys. He then spent several years with the Forest Service at Ogden, Utah, and in the Chief Engineer's office at Washington, D. C. He transferred in 1935 to the Soil Conservation Service as Chief of the Cartographic Division, and in 1937 he joined the Office of the Secretary, in charge of all aerial photographic, topographic, planimetric, and cadastral surveys. Subsequently he went with P. & O. and was named to many important committees and panels including defense work and the coordination of Federal surveying and mapping. In recent years Mr. Wright also served as official delegate to technical conferences in Rome, London, and Buenos Aires. In 1949 he received the USDA superior service award.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR AUGUST 12, 1953

Aids to decision

TEAM WORK by several USDA agencies plus cooperation from other Government departments was particularly evident in the recent rush job of providing eligible wheat growers with basic information respecting the pros and cons of the August 14 referendum on the question of having marketing quotas for 1954. Such cooperation made it possible to have the circular in the mails within 4 days after Secretary Benson issued his proclamation on the allotments.

Information personnel of the Department cooperated with subject matter specialists in writing a leaflet "The Wheat Quota Referendum," which presented all the background facts necessary to give growers unbiased advance information before they do their voting for or against the quota proclaimed to conform to acreage allotments as announced on July 15.

This brief, single-fold leaflet totaled 2,660,000 copies. The distribution was determined in the Production and Marketing Administration offices on the number of wheat allotments in each county in 1950, plus an estimated margin for landlords and absentee owners of wheat farms, calculated from the U. S. Census figures. (Previously in preparation for the referendum the necessary number of printed ballots had been distributed to all the counties concerned—something like 1,700,000 in number.)

Mailing lists carefully made up for about 2,900 wheat-growing counties in all States were immediately taken to the Chicago field plant of the Government Printing Office, together with the U. S. frank address labels to cover the package mailing. Besides the regular county packages, there was an extra reserve of 5 percent of the leaflets sent to State PMA Committee offices to meet emergencies.

The GPO received the final leaflet copy on July 16, and had them set up and run off at 70,000 copies an hour, completing the mailing on July 19. Luckily, the GPO and the U. S. Post Office are located in the same building in Chicago. Splendid cooperation from the GPO and the supervisors of the mails at Chicago Post Office made it possible to supply the counties with their leaflets early in the week of July 19. Individual wheat growers thereupon received their copies promptly from their own PMA county offices.

Kansas, the leading wheat State, received 265,030 county copies and 13,500 reserves for the Kansas State PMA office. At the other extreme, Delaware with 3 wheat counties got 3,270 for county distribution and 200 reserve copies for the State PMA office.

Meantime, Extension Service, Farm Credit Administration, Farmers Home Administration, Soil Conservation Service, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics received enough copies of the explanatory leaflet for county extension agents and field representatives.

The Office of Information coordinated the supplementary nationwide releases on the referendum through press releases, radio interviews and spot announcements as additional help to explain the whys and wherefores of the forthcoming balloting. The whole idea was to carry out the intention of Secretary Benson to do everything possible to help growers reach their own decisions without bias.

Boost payroll thrift

Fairly good returns have come into the Office of Personnel since they distributed materials and explanatory statements about the value of buying Government savings bonds under the payroll deduction method. The kit of materials was sent to heads of all agencies and Department savings bond coordinators. All further supplies in quantity for boosting payroll savings for field offices are supplied through Treasury State Headquarters offices.

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Laurels for "Lupe"

GUADALUPE VALDEZ received an award on June 3 for completion of 20 years of service with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. He is one of the few Mexican Nationals to have received such an award from any USDA Bureau. The presentation was made in Brownsville, Tex., while Mr. Valdez was on the job inspecting for citrus blackfly, a pest feared by citrus growers of this country. The only witnesses were the other inspection crew members. Although Lupe can't speak English, his mist–clouded eyes as he accepted the award expressed his appreciation.

"You should have seen the smile on his face and the handshaking and embracing that went on after the presentation," writes B. C. Stephenson, Assistant Project Leader of Citrus Blackfly Control, who presented the award. "I am sure this is one certificate that will be framed and hung on the wall of Lupe's humble home, and that the pin which accompanied it will be worn with pleasure and much honor to the Bureau."

A faithful, loyal and valuable employee, Mr. Valdez has been more or less in charge of BEPQ's Mexican fruitfly work conducted in Matamoros, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande from Brownsville, for many years. He has also assisted in blackfly and pink bollworm surveys in Matamoros in recent years. His son, Francisco ("Little Lupe") is now employed by BEPQ in citrus blackfly surveys in Mexico and the United States.

Hedges memorial

Friends of the late Harold Hedges, Farm Credit Administration, have established a "Harold Hedges Memorial Fund" as a student loan fund at the University of Nebraska, his alma mater. Contributions to this memorial fund may be sent to A. W. McKay, FCA, at Washington, D. C., who is serving temporarily as secretary of the fund.

McLeaish heads FHA

Praised by Secretary Benson for his understanding of farmers' financial problems during experiences in Texas agriculture, Robert B. McLeaish was sworn into office last month as Administrator of the Farmers Home Administration. He has served as executive vice president of the Sugatex Corp. engaged in processing stock feed from citrus waste. During World War II Mr. McLeaish served on advisory committees for the War Food Administration, War Production Board, Office of Price Administration, and War Manpower Commission. He served in the Army in World War I. He has had business connections with companies engaged in farm and townsite developments, and as manager of the cooperative citrus exchange in the Rio Grande Valley. He holds a degree from St Mary's University of Galveston, and did graduate studies in accounting and business administration at the University of Texas. He is 54 years of age, is married, and has three sons.

Dairy digits

THE NATION'S central dairy record-keeping office where vital information in the selection of superior breeding stock is compiled from data received from the State Extension dairymen is located in the basement of the South Building and administered by the Bureau of Dairy Industry.

The Division of Dairy Herd Improvement Investigations is headed by Dr. J. F. Kendrick. The millions of production records from association herds and artificial breeding cooperatives are analyzed and maintained in a clerical work unit headed by Luella Dever, a native of Missouri, and Doris J. Keevil, from New York State—the latter receiving a superior service award this year for planning, developing, and operating the largest dairy cattle record system of its kind in the world. Supervision and management of the computing machines and wiring the control boards is the job of Alex Arany.

Not only are these voluminous records used to "prove" large numbers of dairy sires, but they are useful in analyzing the progress that is being made in many individual herds with the object of finding improved inheritance. The original records after being processed and microfilmed are returned to the State Extension dairymen for their permanent files. Similar, but not as extensive, lactation record IBM machine systems are maintained in State Colleges of Wisconsin, Utah, Washington, and New York.

According to Mrs. Keevil, the adaptation of the work to mechanical procedures using the latest designs of IBM machines has enabled their reduced clerical force of around 60 employees to carry on the work formerly done by about 100 persons. The battery of modern automatic marvels for fast and accurate recording includes a "604" electronic calculator which does 100 items per minute regardless of the individual computations required; a "405" tabulator; a "cardatype" which is a punchcard activated typewriter that performs 600 characters per minute of straight, nontabular work which requires no proofreading. They also use high-speed sorters, the usual interpreter, collators, and ordinary card punch machinery.

The original data arrive on punch card forms from the State colleges, but these are certified before proceeding with the intricate system of recording, calculating, sorting, and duplicating. Two files of identical records are maintained—one on cow numbers and another on sire numbers. Each sire's record is kept separately and each incoming cow record is checked and posted to the respective sire card. A detail cow record card provides such machine-made items as the herd owner and his State, date reported, cow identification number, breed, date of birth, sire number, dam number, calving date, days in milk, actual milk and butterfat weight, and the calculated milk and butterfat equivalent at maturity.

In the files covering artificial breeding associations as of October 1951 there were a total of 39,073 sire and 81,000, daughter records. Tabulation of these records involved about 1,400,000 calculations. As of the moment there are estimated to be about 4,000,000 305-day production records on file. The staff has been keeping up currently in its task of recording and filing the data, Mrs. Keevil states. With about 10,000 records received weekly, their April assignment was done by May 15. However, because of limited personnel not all the sires are proved. Inasmuch as these data are urgently needed in the States, the rule is to prove the sires as requested first and then the youngest ones—doing the rest as fast as possible, always giving the cattle breeds equal attention.

Science can aid

THIS SELECTION is from a talk before the 1952 meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Science, by A. J. Carlson, Department of Physiology, University of Chicago:

It seems obvious that as a citizen the scientist's social responsibility is at least as great as his understanding of man and nature. What he can contribute to a saner and a happier life for man is not little, but unless we tackle this difficult task at once, it may be too late, considering the current hysteria, fear, hate, and preparations for more destructive wars. Our age is not yet an age of science, even in our intellectually and scientifically most advanced nations.

When the shadows beckon men of my years, we still have our children, we still have our dreams. I dream of a day when our leaders will actually put the principles of science and democracy to work in our land, in politics, in industry, in trade, in education; when understanding will more than hold its own against superstition, guile, and greed, and when force and violence is replaced by conference, compromise, and approximate justice in domestic and foreign relations.

I think we can say, even in the face of current fears and pessimism, that during the ups and downs of the past thousands of years man has gradually acquired more understanding, more freedom from fear, more dignity, greater kindness, and a clearer conception of justice. For slowly but surely, the understanding of man provided by science will help to make our life more intelligent, toil more cheerful, and fear, hatred, pain, and tears less prevalent in our existence.

Said on the side

WE KIDS in our old valley used to wonder sometimes when we saw the older folks get sort of sentimental when they started to talk to each other and their elderly neighbors about early times and chums and old fashioned things and places they used to know so well and like. We could never get that kind of feeling talking to other kids about the last term of school or the time we got into trouble in a neighbor's melon patch, or the way we had to cut and tote kindlings and run errands. Mostly we thought of those things as ordinary stuff and even laughed about it to each other—instead of wiping our eyes over it, like they often did. It took us kids several long years and a lot of summers and winters and bad luck and warm friendships to find out finally why our older relations got misty and moisty over recollections of the past. But we lived long enough to learn in the long run, and the learning of it wasn't always nice and pleasant, either; although the bright and happy things got all mixed up in it, too. After we got old enough to begin to look elderly ourselves to the rising generation this custom of getting softheaded grew on us about what we used to do in the valley and the friends we had there to make life more cheerful and better. It's probably all right for a little feeling like that to come up between folks, and no doubt the moral in it is to live every day to the fullest and so store up more good memories instead of a lot of sorry regrets. In that case a bit of sentiment at sundown won't startle us anymore or make us wonder why it happens.

One day last month our Inquiries and Distribution Section got a query from a youngster in California. It read: "Department of Agriculture, dear sir: please tell me what food flies like to eat best. I want to invent a fly catcher. Thanks for the information."

New council members

Here is the list of newly elected members of the USDA Employee Council for 1953: William E. Weir, Office of the Secretary; Miss Vashti Davis, Library; Frederick A. Coffey, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Dr. Thomas Bartilson, Agricultural Research Administration; Mrs. Enid R. Larsen, Soil Conservation Service; Chris L. Schultz, Rural Electrification Administration; John C. Scanlan, Farm Credit Administration; and George F. Picot, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. For Alternates; Richard B. Stevenson, Sec; Harry E. Smallwood, Lib; Glenn D. Simpson, BAE; Louis G. Davis, ARA; Edward B. Garvey, SCS; Miss Shirley M. Sawyer, REA; Paul Tomasello, FCA; and Mary R. Fuchs, FCIC. Consultants are Henry F. Shepherd and C. O. Henderson, both of Pers. Officers are Roland Rotty, FS, chairman; James Alford, Inf, vice chairman, and Genevieve Hoskinson, FHA, secretary.

E. C. Powell dies

Edwin C. Powell, 83, retired Chief Editor of the Department of Agriculture, and well-known bulb grower, died July 11, 1953. Mr. Powell came to the Department March 1921 as Assistant in Information in the Press Service, after serving as writer and editor for leading farm journals. In 1922 he joined the Division of Publications and served as chief editor for 18 years, retiring in March 1940 to his narcissus farm, Hermitage Gardens, a few miles north of Washington, D. C.

Mr. Powell came from a line of distinguished fruit growers from the Hudson Valley of New York. His father was the first president of the American Pomological Society and his brother, G. Harold Powell, was with the Department of Agriculture, where he distinguished himself in horticulture and improved transportation of fruits, later becoming head of the California Fruit Growers Association. A plaque in honor of G. Harold Powell may be seen at the entrance to the West Wing, first floor of the Administration Building, USDA.

Edwin C. Powell was especially interested in the growing of narcissus bulbs and other flowers, in which he became a national authority. About 50 of his narcissus hybridizations are registered with the Royal Horticultural Society in London. In his editorial and information services he built up a reputation for strict integrity and for perfection of style; and, in collaboration with Dr. M. C. Merrill, chief of publications, did much to establish the prevailing high quality of USDA literature.

A native of Ghent, N. Y., Mr. Powell graduated from Cornell University in 1893. Surviving are his wife, Grace; a daughter, Mrs. Beatrice Wilcox, Meriden, Conn.; 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Readers' reminders

Labor bibliography

Library List 59 is an annotated bibliography of selected references on migratory labor in the United States. It is printed under May 1953 date and was compiled by Josiah C. Folsom, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The beef boom

Information on the special promotion effort by USDA and associated agencies in the commercial and educational fields to help consumers and producers make the most of the beef-supply situation are carried in a four-page fact sheet, issued July 10, 1953. Copies are available from the Editor of *USDA*.

County agent activity

A new statistical report of the work and accomplishments of over 9,500 county extension agents, both white and Negro, for calendar year 1952, has been released by the Extension Service. This 45-page bulletin is Circular 487, by Amelia S. Gordy, Division of Field Studies and Training.

Vacation helps

The employee activities office of the Welfare and Recreation Association has maintained a handy collection of vacation how and where ideas and booklets. Some of it is "for keeps" and the rest is rented from their library.

Warehouse directory

Production and Marketing Administration's Transportation and Warehouse Branch has issued the third directory of refrigerated storage warehouses in the United States, 92 pages processed. It gives the name, address, and type of operation of every warehouse currently cooperating with USDA in issuing monthly cold storage reports.

Wheat insect controls

A new leaflet, "Insects in Farm-Stored Wheat and How to Control Them" has proved a popular and timely publication. Copies of Leaflet No. 345 are distributed by the Inquiries and Distribution Service, Office of Information here.

Best grasshopper poisons

Test reports of the minimum effective doses of certain insecticides required to control grasshoppers in the West are issued by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine as of July 1953. This technical report is listed as E-860, obtainable direct from EPQ by those concerned with latest control experiments.

For corn harvesters

Statistics on numbers of silos and kinds of silage made, as well as the main changes seen in recent years in methods of cutting and handling the corn crop for grain—which accounts for almost 90 percent of the entire crop—are carried in two new bulletins by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. "Harvesting the Silage Crops" is Statistical Bulletin No. 128, and "Harvesting Corn for Grain" is Statistical Bulletin No. 129. Write to the Bureau's information and distribution services.

Seeding grasses

In connection with tests to develop better ways of getting stands of clover and grasses, the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering finds that excellent results comes from drilling the seed one-fourth inch deep and placing the fertilizer in bands an inch below the seed. Data on various angles to this experiment may be had by asking the Editor of *USDA* for No. 1645.

Using shells and pits

At the Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria, Ill, they have been making headway in converting waste nut shells and fruit pits into antiskid agents for tires, plastic fillers, and poultry-house floor litter. Information from this project is found in AIC-352, written by T. F. Clark and E. C. Lathrop, obtainable from the aforesaid laboratory, 825 North University St., Peoria, 5, Ill., or direct from the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry at the Department in Washington, D. C.

"Run barns" described

"Loose Housing for Dairy Cattle" is a new publication by the Department on a widely practical subject. The authors are Thayer Cleaver and Robert C. Yeck, engineers in the Division of Farm Buildings and Rural Housing, PISAE. Design of the milking and resting areas and recommendations for housing calves and bulls and providing hospital and maternity accommodations are well presented. It is Agricultural Information Bulletin No. 98, generally distributed by the Office of Information.

Suggestions in order

Cash awards specified to employees for valuable suggestions under Public Law 600, 79th Congress, are as follows: Savings to $1,000—$5 for each $100, with a minimum of $10 for any idea accepted; from $1,000 to $10,000—$50 for the first $1,000, $5 for each additional $200; $10,000 to $100,000—$275 for the first $10,000 of savings, $5 for each additional $1,000; and $100,000 or more—$725 for the first $100,000 of savings, and $5 for each additional $5,000, with $1,000 as the maximum. One USDA agency with an allotment of $25,000 for awards only paid out $300 in the 1952 fiscal year.

Brief and choice

Bermuda hybrids

Two new Bermuda grass hybrids of promise have been developed by Dr. Glenn W. Burton and associates at the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station under Federal-State research. Suwannee Bermuda and Tiffine Bermuda have improved qualities over other varieties in use.

Duckworth to Mexico

Dr. Charles U. Duckworth, a past president of the U. S. Livestock Sanitary Association, is on a special assignment from Secretary Benson to work with the Mexican Government in helping to find a solution to the problem of eradication of foot-and-mouth disease.

Shock sandals

It is believed that a new approach to the reduction of injuries to smokejumpers landing at forest fires may be devised through perfection of special sandals to be worn by the men so as to cushion the impact and the sting when hitting the ground. Further announcements on use and development of the sandals will follow more repeated field trials at Missoula, Mont., by the U. S. Forest Service.

CCC work stands up

Region No. 3 of the U. S. Forest Service issued a bulletin note early this summer about the relative durability of construction at camps and recreation spots by the Civilian Conservation Corps of 1933-36. A survey of buildings, towers, fences, and truck trails which the CCC boys produced 20 years ago give remarkable evidence that their work was well supervised and planned. Former members of the CCC have written to the FS supervisors with gratitude over the stability of the work performed.

World "horsepower"

Foreign Agricultural Service statisticians report that as of 1953 world horse numbers were about 75 million head. This is a drop of about 1 million head from 1952, while compared with the prewar years 1935-38 the decline is 22 percent. More extensive mechanization in the more advanced farming areas of the world caused a decline in spite of the continued upward trend of horse numbers in U. S. S. R., Asia, and parts of Africa.

"M. L." has retired

Milburn Lincoln Wilson, one of the best known and best liked leaders in agriculture today, has retired from Government service. He began as one of the first Montana county agents in 1912. He first came to USDA in 1924 as head of the Division of Farm Management and Costs. After another period with Montana State College as head of the economics department, Mr. Wilson joined the old Agricultural Adjustment Administration in 1933 as head of the wheat section. Later he went into the Department of the Interior to set up the Subsistence Homestead Division. In July 1934 he was named Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, later Under Secretary; and subsequently served as Director of Extension until January 1953. To name all the outstanding honors and international services he has received and performed would almost fill this column. He has taken a position with the Ford Foundation, and will probably accept some temporary missions for the Extension Service in the meantime as occasion permits. M. L. has always been a clear thinker and a resolute champion of progress, and has maintained a homely philosophy that has kept him close to the soil and farm folks.

Lots of questions

An authority in the Division of Special Farm Statistics said lately that experience teaches the value of preparing the right kind of effective questionnaires. The Agricultural Estimates branch of BAE sends out about 10 million of them every year and ought to know something about building them well.

USDA clubs

In a circular prepared by E. R. Draheim and Lu Gibbons, Office of Personnel, a short history of the USDA clubs is presented. The first clubs were suggested by former Secretary E. T. Meredith, with the pioneer clubs soon formed in San Francisco, Denver, Albuquerque, New York City, and Portland, Oreg. Today there are 84 in 40 States.

Broad field ahead

Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry points out that there is a greater incentive for young chemists to put their energies into the agricultural field. This is partly because of the newer tools and techniques available. These include chromatography, ion-exchange resins, differential solvent extraction, radioactive tracers, and infrared spectrophotometry. This for the first time gives chemists a complete knowledge of composition which is so essential to the successful solution of many problems in agriculture.

Tree planting

Under the cooperative distribution of forest tree planting stocks (Clarke-McNary Act), 45 States, and Hawaii and Puerto Rico conduct such programs on private land, says the U. S. Forest Service. In 1952 they distributed 300 million trees, which, at 1,000 trees per acre, were enough to plant 300,000 acres of land. This was three-fifths of all the forest planting done in that year. Since 1926 the program has sent out more than 1¾ billion forest tree seedlings.

Mary Rokhar to Storrs

Miss Mary Rokhar has resigned to serve as head of the Department of General Home Economics at the Connecticut College of Agriculture, Storrs, Conn. She received a degree in home economics at Nebraska University and her M. A. degree at Columbia University, New York City. She served as State home demonstration leader in Wyoming for 9 years, and since then has spent 17 years as home management specialist in the Federal Extension office, and 5 years in charge of the Home Economics Section of the Division of Subject Matter. She has also taught summer school at several Land-Grant Colleges and represented USDA at numerous national and international conferences.

Arnold new Governor of FCA

C. R. Arnold of Hilliards, Ohio, took over the duties of Governor of Farm Credit Administration on July 16. He was named by President Eisenhower to complete the unexpired term of I. W. Dugan, who recently resigned. "Cap" Arnold, as he is widely known, is an old hand in the farm-credit field. Some 20 years ago when FCA was organized, he became Special Assistant to the Governor. Later he became Deputy Production Credit Commissioner, and then Commissioner in 1941, holding that position until he retired to his Ohio farm in 1951. Governor Arnold helped organize the first Production Credit Corporation at St. Louis and the first PCA at Champaign, Ill. Previous to his work with FCA, "Cap" had been in Extension work in Ohio for 13 years. He was born on a farm in the Oregon Willamette Valley, but at 16 went to Darke County, Ohio. He graduated from Ohio State University and received his M. A. from the University of Minnesota.

Slight distinction maybe

During a recent conference among Office of Personnel people here an agency personnel officer was inquiring about the status of an employee with reference to RIF procedures. "In this case we don't want to dismiss him but we'd like to terminate his services," it was explained.

Corn borer trouble

State and Federal entomologists find that some trouble may occur in the Corn Belt States this season from ravages of the second brood of European corn borers. Indications of a big second brood development were announced in July as apt to appear early in August in that area. This is a part of the widespread cooperative insect warning service.

Package television

The Office of Information has been conducting a 13-week test with a package series of agricultural features to determine to what extent such program package materials can be used by stations that televise agricultural subjects. Packages consist of a story in suggested script form for about 7 minutes or less presentation along with visuals such as still pictures, artwork, motion film, slides, and live objects. The first series has been sent weekly to 29 stations.

Enemies of the forest

The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine has released a report which summarizes in 15 pages the kind and amount of damage done to forests last year by the more important insects. The work of more than 15 insects, mostly beetles, is discussed. If you want a copy, write to Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and ask for the More Important Forest Insects of 1952—A Summary.

Aboriginal maize

The Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering is receiving and storing 5-ounce samples of collections of aboriginal maize kernels made under the National Research Council's fund obtained from the Technical Cooperation Administration to find and catalog races of aboriginal maize in the Western Hemisphere. Seed centers to carry out this project are at Mexico City, Mexico; Medellin, Colombia; and Piricicaba, Brazil. Already 6,000 collectons of ancient maize have been received.

Submits technical paper

Dr. Richard Evans Schultes, botanist for the USDA Division of Rubber Plant Investigations, has submitted a manuscript in a contest for scientific papers sponsored by the Societe de Physique et d'Historie Naturelle de Geneve, Switzerland. His paper is a synopsis of the genus Herrania, a highly useful genus of plants closely related to the cultivated cacaos, which are the foundation of chocolate making. Its greatest importance, the author says, is as a possible source of germ plasm for development of disease resistance in related species.

Well equipped

The Motion Picture Service of the Office of Information is the first and oldest government film producer. Its offices in the South Building here are equipped as follows: Research and script production, well equipped camera crews, autos for field work, sound truck, stage facilities including sound recording, animation stands, optical printing, color printing from A and B rolls, film processing, cutting and editing service, sound effects and a music library. Its technicians have had many years of experience in all types of motion picture work.

"Nature on edge"

The above is the theme of the 53d annual meeting of the Society of American Foresters, to be held at Colorado Springs, Colo., September 14–17. All interested persons, members or otherwise, are welcome.

Storage rules observed

The Commodity Credit Corporation, as required under existing legislation, conducts its storage operations subject to the following restrictions: (1) No interest is acquired in real property for storage purposes unless it is determined by the Corporation that existing privately owned storage facilities for the storage of the commodity in the area concerned are not adequate; and (2) to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with the fulfillment of the Corporation's purposes and the effective and efficient conduct of its business, the Corporation utilizes the usual and customary channels, facilities, and arrangements of trade and commerce in the warehousing of its commodities.

Return visit

Zelta Rodenwold of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics has been designated by the Department of State to represent the USDA at the eighth International Congress on Home Economics at Edinburgh, Scotland. In her work at Beltsville Research Center as a consultant on international programs Mrs. Rodenwold has shown the laboratories and explained their work to numerous home economics leaders from Europe. In her vacation sightseeing after the Congress ends, she expects to see some of those visitors and their projects.

Research funds

W. F. Harwood, assistant director for administration, National Science Foundation, is authority for these published figures: All research and development funds supplied by the Federal Government, industry, and the universities amounts to about three and a half billion dollars a year. About one-third is supported by industry, and almost two-thirds by the Federal Government, with a small percentage, possibly 3 percent by the universities. For fiscal 1953 the grand total of the Federal Government was slightly over 2 billion dollars. Of this, USDA's portion is given at 56 million dollars.

Soil conditioners

Those who buy commercial soil conditioners now on the market in much profusion should invest in them mainly as an experiment, say the scientists at the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. "Soils vary in their response to these chemical treatments. Trials to date indicate that these conditioners are most effective on soils with high clay content and not very effective on soils with a very high sand content. Soils that already have good structure naturally will show no great improvement, so it is suggested that only small amounts be purchased until the grower is sure by his own experience that the results really pay," is their conclusion.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR AUGUST 26 1953

Attitude surveys

WORKDAY pros and cons are nothing else than trying to find out how employees regard their jobs and the persons and conditions connected with their everyday routine. The Office of Personnel has conducted employee opinion surveys in the past and recently arranged for a trial run of a questionnaire being used by Science Research Associates of Chicago. The questionnaire was developed by Dr. Robert K. Burns of the Industrial Relations Center, University of Chicago, and has been given to about 250,000 employees in private industry. SRA was interested in revising the questionnaire to adapt it for use by Government employees and the Department has collaborated on the development of a Government edition.

Earlier this year certain groups of employees of Personnel and the Bureau of Animal Industry participated in a "trial run" of the revised SRA questionnaire, handled in the Department by A. James Martin of Personnel. All employee reports on the attitude survey sheets were analyzed by SRA, which has studied thousands of employee opinions. There are no trick questions and there are no "right" and "wrong" answers. They are simply a series of statements with space left to enable each employee to tell whether or not he agrees with each one. The final replies were sealed at once and sent direct to SRA, whose subsequent judgment was that the score of these employees on their attitudes showed excellent response in a positive manner, and that supervisors and employees got along well together.

No employee signatures were used and no one in Personnel ever saw the answer sheets. SRA analyzed the results by groups only and then reported them as group opinion. By carefully reviewing the analyses submitted by SRA, the Director of Personnel and his associates could detect weak spots and plan to improve morale and efficiency. Constant work to evaluate and improve the questionnaires is the present idea, using experience gained in the first ones.

It is probable that further tests of the value of these employee opinions—favorable and otherwise—may be extended to certain branch and field offices.

Briefly, there are about 80 questions or statements submitted in several broad categories, such as: job demands, working conditions, employee pay, employee benefits, friendliness and cooperation among employees, supervision matters, confidence in top officials, technical competence of supervisor, effectiveness of administration, adequacy of communications, job security and work relations, suitable recognition, opportunity for growth and advancement, and lastly, the employee's reactions to the survey itself.

Naturally, some areas noted in these categories do not lend themselves to change or adjustment independently of congressional approval, although most of them are fully within the province of the supervisors and top officials to improve or correct.

"Improved surveys of this kind may really prove a boon to personnel management in the Department," stated Mr. Martin. "If the reaction to the survey and its wider use turns out to continue as favorable as the first ones, it is hoped that it will be used more frequently."

Pesticide progress

Office of Materials and Facilities, Production and Marketing Administration, points to the enormous growth of pesticide usage in the past few years. Facilities for their production have greatly increased in 1951 and 1952. During the interval from 1945 to 1953 at least 25 major pesticidal materials which were not available before 1945, were introduced and received wide acceptance, they state. The quantity estimated to have been used in 1945 was about 513 million pounds, whereas the usage figure for 1951 was approximately a fraction over 1 billion pounds.

Beef for schools

GROUND BEEF will play an important part in school lunch programs across the nation during the coming school year. Under the Department's beef purchase program, made possible with Section 32 funds, about 5½ million pounds of ground beef have already been purchased and the buying program has not yet been concluded.

Several important requirements and recommendations are made to make certain that the quality of the ground beef will be maintained. The beef must be "twice ground" by the suppliers to assure uniform distribution of lean and fat portions. The beef is then frozen in compact blocks approximately 5 x 5 x 15 inches; each block is individually wrapped in heavy wax paper, and packaged in paper-lined or waxed containers with 4 blocks to the container. Shipment is made by the supplier under refrigeration at temperatures adequate to keep beef hard frozen. All such meat is inspected and graded, prior to freezing, by Department authorities before it is accepted under contract.

The Livestock Branch of PMA, the contracting agency, also requires that suppliers place in each meat container a placard of instructions for handling the meat. Similar instructions are distributed by the Food Distribution Branch, PMA, through the State agencies concerned with the channeling of beef and instructions to their own schools, so that information on safeguarding the handling of meat reaches school in two ways.

Frozen ground beef is now being offered to nonprofit school lunch programs in schools that have adequate facilities for storing it at zero degrees F. or below and for thawing it under refrigeration.

Instructions to the schools for handling the frozen ground beef say: "Store at zero F. or below; thaw out only amount needed for one day and avoid leftovers; remove the frozen packages from the container and put them on refrigerator shelves in single layers to reduce thawing time. Cook within 24 hours after it is thawed. Do not refreeze."

Eligible schools more than 24 hours away from a distribution point—refrigerated cars or cold storage plant—must provide refrigerated trucks to pick up the frozen ground beef. On shorter hauls, nonrefrigerated trucks may be used, if the frozen ground beef is covered with a tarpaulin.

JOIN THE USDA WELFARE ASSOCIATION

266211°—53

New farm credit act

TO ENCOURAGE increased farm borrower management and ultimate complete ownership of the farm credit system is the objective sought by Congress in enacting the Farm Credit Act of 1953. It is the result of many conferences and hearings with farmers, bankers, and with officials of the various Government credit agencies, and embodies much of the thinking of the leading farm organizations regarding improvements intended to furnish credit that is geared and adjusted to the special needs of farmers and their associations.

The Act provides declarations of policy for greater farm ownership and control of credit agencies and laying the groundwork for systematically retiring Government capital. It decentralizes administrative power, by directing that the Farm Credit Administration delegate to the various Federal land banks and other district credit agencies more duties and authority. The idea is to place power and authority closer to the farmers.

It sets up a 13-member Federal Farm Credit Board with full responsibility for the policies of the FCA. Of the 13 members, 12 will be appointed by the President, one from each credit district. The 13th member is designated by the Secretary of Agriculture to be known as his representative.

It eliminates the offices of the Land Bank Commissioner, Production Credit Commissioner, Cooperative Bank Commissioner, and Intermediate Credit Commissioner. Their functions will be carried out under the direction of the Governor of FCA, who is appointed and will serve at the pleasure of the 13-member Board, and administer the Act under the Board's general supervision.

The farm credit district board will be retained in each district, composed of seven members, with greater participation by farmers provided in selection of these boards.

The Division of Cooperative Research and Service is transferred from the FCA to the direct control of the Secretary of Agriculture.

It provides that any Federal land bank, any production credit corporation, or any of the 13 banks for cooperatives having outstanding capital stock held by the United States must pay a franchise tax on their net earnings after certain authorized deductions. At this date the Government holds no stock in any Federal land bank. The production credit corporations are wholly Government owned and about 90 percent of the stock of the banks for cooperatives is likewise held by the United States. The intermediate credit banks have been paying a franchise tax of 25 percent of net earnings after additions have been made to reserves.

While the FCA will be housed in the Department of Agriculture and may, with the consent of the Secretary, make use of its services, the actual supervision of it will be under the new Federal Farm Credit Board, instead of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Said on the side

WHERE IS "our old valley" located? Interested readers have smilingly inquired the whereabouts of the legendary community that has been spoken of here on frequent occasions. The real answer is that "our valley" is "your valley" wherever it happens to be in this land of ours—even if it is out on the Great Plains where clouds hang low and the eye sees no valleys except those nonexistent ones shimmering in the far off prairie mirage. To all of us it's the realm of the humble ruralite, the beckoning memories of friendly farms and sweet thresholds, the traditions and the spirituality of our present days left to us in trust from other days. It's just good old America and our kinfolk who made it that way, whatever their ancestry, their creed, their race, or their faith. If it's nostalgia, so much the better, provided it never insists that the best times are *always* the past times. For we of today and those of our kindred who are rising to meet its challenges and its rewards will all too soon be spoken of in the past tense. But the past is prologue to the future, and is always an ever-sustaining guide line in plowing straight furrows that lead on to future harvests.

New research editor

Donald P. Cole has assumed his duties as technical editor of publications at the Peoria, Ill., Northern Regional Research Laboratory of BAIC. Mr. Cole just finished a term as press officer for the Office of Price Stabilization, before which he was director of public relations at Clark University, Worcester, Mass. He is a native of Massachusetts and has engaged in active newspaper work for 20 years.

Parthenogenesis

M. W. Olsen and S. J. Marsden, Bureau of Animal Industry, found retarded embyros and embryonic membranes in 15 percent of the eggs laid by turkey hens 3 to 6 months after isolation from male birds. These are the first cases of advanced natural parthenogenesis, or spontaneous development of embryos without normal fertilization, ever reported in birds or other higher animals. This condition often happens in the lower forms of animal life, such as bees and aphids. (See page 4, August number of ARA's "Agricultural Research.")

Safety care pays

EMPLOYEES OF USDA have become safety conscious to the extent that the nonfatal injuries sustained within the Department as a whole in 1951 were about 53 percent of the figure for 1940. The statistics kept by the Federal Bureau of Employee Compensation show 2,934 nonfatal injuries suffered by our Department workers in 1940, and by comparison, only 1,549 such accidents recorded in 1951.

A sustained steady decline in the number of nonfatal accidents is shown in the official record for 12 years. Not as good a showing appears in the fatal accidents however. These numbered 23 in 1940 and 29 in 1951, with the high point of 46 fatalaties recorded in 1949 and a low point of 12 in 1950. One reason for the larger number of fatalities in 1949 were the deaths of 16 Forest Service workers in fighting forest fires, the worst toll being taken in the Mann Gulch fire in Montana that year. In 1951 the sudden rise of fatalities over the low point in 1950 is attributed to transportation accidents—15 deaths to motor vehicles and 7 deaths caused by airplane disasters.

Frequency rates of accident are tabulated by BEC also. In the case of the Department this rate—based on numbers of injuries per million man-hours worked—amounted to 18.4 in 1940 and only 10.4 in 1951. The accidents and deaths reported are as follows:

In 1940, 2,934 nonfatal and 23 fatal; 1941, 2,467 and 24; 1942, 2,272 and 16; 1943, 2,452 and 17; 1944, 2,027 and 22; 1945, 1,928 and 21; 1946, 1,852 and 21; 1947, 1,832 and 22; 1948, 1,619 and 17; 1949, 1,695 and 46; 1950 1,619 and 12; 1951, 1,549 and 29.

COURTESY OF NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Agriculture Research Center: MRS. ROSE MARY BOYER, Procurement Clerk, Beltsville, Maryland.

Bureau of Agricultural Economics: CHARLOTTE B. JAMIESON, Statistical Clerk, Washington, D. C.

Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry: HARRY J. JOHN, Instrument Maker, Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania; VIRGINIA E. SCUDERO, Voucher Examiner, Albany, California; ROBERT WILLIAMS, Laboratory Animal Caretaker, Washington, D. C.; SYDNEY D. WILSON, Engineering Aid, Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania.

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine: JAMES L. BEAN, Entomologist, New Haven, Connecticut; MRS. MARJORIE H. BOLLER, Time, Leave, and Payroll Supervisor, Minneapolis, Minnesota; ROBERT C. HELLER, Forester, Beltsville, Maryland; FRED B. KNIGHT, Entomologist, Fort Collins, Colorado; KENNETH W. LAMANSKY, Biological Aid, Vincennes, Indiana; LOUISE F. WAIDELICH, Secretary, Washington, D. C.; WILLIS W. WIRTH, Entomologist, Washington, D. C.; KENNETH H. WRIGHT, Entomologist, Portland, Oregon.

Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering: VICTOR H. BEACH, Budget Officer, Beltsville, Maryland.

Farmers Home Administration: JOE M. MURPHREE, County Supervisor, Clanton, Alabama; WILLIAM R. OWEN, Farm Management Supervisor, Bismarck, North Dakota; BRYAN D. STRINGER, Farm Management Supervisor, Canton, Mississippi; WARD L. VANDER GRIEND, Farm Management Supervisor, Lynden, Washington.

Forest Service: BURLEY D. FRIDLEY, Forestry Aid, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania; DONALD E. WHELAN, Hydrologist, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania; MRS. SADIE A. WILLIAMS, Mail Clerk, Washington, D. C.

Production and Marketing Administration: NORMAN S. SMITH, Assistant Chief, General Investigations Division, Washington, D. C.

Rural Electrification Administration: BERNARD T. BOYLE, Training Officer, Washington, D. C.; VICTOR V. CAMERA, Clerk-Typist, Washington, D. C.; HELEN A. CARR, Budget Analyst, Washington, D. C.; CURTIS L. HOLLISTER, Electrical Engineer, Washington, D. C.; DONALD C. HOUSLEY, Electronic Engineer, Washington, D. C.; VIOLA O. SCHMIDT, Administrative Officer, Washington, D. C.

Soil Conservation Service: TONY W. ADAMS, Soil Conservation Aid, Talihina, Oklahoma; JACQUES AEBLI, Administrative Assistant, Richmond, Virginia; MRS. EDITH T. BOYTER, Clerk-Stenographer, Orlando, Florida; MARIE BRADSHAW, Clerk-Stenographer, Hugo, Oklahoma; ROY H. BREDAL, Cartographic Aid, Spartanburg, South Carolina; ALVA L. CODDINGTON, Soil Conservation Aid, Muskegon, Michigan; BURTON J. CONNALLY, Engineering Aid, Sayre, Oklahoma; ELSIE S. CRIBB, Clerk-Stenographer, Spartanburg, South Carolina; HORACE C. DEAN, Supervisory Soil Scientist, San Marcos, Texas; LOUIS E. DERR, Supervisory Soil Scientist, Stillwater, Oklahoma; GLADYS V. DONALDSON, Clerk-Stenographer, Auburn, Alabama; LACY I. HARMON, Soil Scientist, Fort Dodge, Iowa; EMORY D. HILTON, Engineering Aid, Decatur, Texas; JOHN H. HOGAN, Agricultural Engineer, Marksville, Louisiana; ALVIN E. HOWARD, Soil Conservation Aid, Idabel, Oklahoma; JAMES F. IRVING, JR., Soil Conservationist, Morrilton, Arkansas; ALBERT T. JORDAN, Soil Conservationist, Stamford, Texas; JULIAN F. KEETON, JR., Soil Conservationist, Berryville, Arkansas; MRS. MILDRED S. LEE, Clerk-Stenographer, Evergreen, Alabama; CLINTON W. LESTER, Engineering Aid, Clinton, Oklahoma; MARION O. LOVE, Engineering Aid, Farmerville, Louisiana; LESTER E. MARK, Soil Conservationist, Centerville, Michigan; MRS. MAE E. MCMEEKIN, Secretary, Spartanburg, South Carolina; PAUL P. MIERTSCHIN, Engineering Aid, La Grange, Texas; MALCOLM C. PENNINGTON, Soil Conservationist, Plainview, Texas; MEREDITH A. PETERS, Forester, Alexandria, Louisiana; CHARLES B. RUSSELL, Administrative Assistant, Auburn, Alabama; GEORGE W. SCHWENK, Engineering Aid, Cordell, Oklahoma; WILLIAM C. SHEFFIELD, JR., Soil Conservation Aid, Foley, Alabama; JAMES D. SIMPSON, Supervisory Soil Scientist, College Station, Texas; WILLIAM B. SPROSS, Soil Conservation Aid, George West, Texas; HARLAN S. STEFFEN, Engineering Aid, Saginaw, Michigan; J. NORMAN STONE, Administrative Assistant, Spartanburg, South Carolina; FLOYD A. TAYLOR, Engineering Aid, Lampasas, Texas; JOHN B. TUBB, Agricultural Engineer, Crowley, Louisiana; LLOYD A. WAKEMAN, Agricultural Engineer, Defiance, Ohio; RAY E. WATSON, Soil Conservation Aid, Hamburg, Arkansas; ROBERT WEST, Soil Conservationist, Dimmitt, Texas; GEORGE L. WILLIAMSON, Soil Conservation Aid, Crystal City, Texas; MRS. ZOLA M. WOLD, Clerk-Stenographer, Riverside, California.

Readers' reminders

Grad school folder

Have you seen the new class schedule and supplement of the 1953–54 Graduate School catalog? Undergraduate and graduate studies are listed for the semesters beginning September 21, 1953, and January 22, 1954.

Nematode control

Proper ways to fumigate soils against the ravages of the golden nematode are outlined in a folder leaflet prepared by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Ask them for EC–28.

Farm management lists

A list of titles and references to farm management publications between 1940 and 1952 respectively are issued as F. M. 99 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The references were compiled by M. R. Cooper and Della E. Merrick, about articles prepared by staff members alone or with State or other specialists in farm management.

Control of peanut pests

"Control of the Southern Corn Rootworm on Peanuts" (EC–23 revised), is the name of a recent publication by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It gives information regarding the appearance, habits, control by insecticides, and the effect of treatment on yield and quality of crop. Copies are available from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine's office of publications.

Stokdyk biography

"E. A. Stokdyk, Architect of Cooperation" is published as a 223-page book by the American Institute of Cooperation, its author being Joseph G. Knapp, Farm Credit Administration. Dr. Stokdyk, who died in 1946, was a former deputy governor of FCA and head of the Berkeley Bank for Cooperatives for 12 years. He was born and educated in Wisconsin and became one of the leaders in his field. An appendix contains some of his better writings. A personal acquaintance and fellowship with Dr. Stokdyk makes possible the author's ability to portray his career.

Brief and choice

Employee award

Dr. Myron Stout, plant physiologist, U. S. Sugar Plant Field Laboratory, Salt Lake City, Utah, received a cash award of $135. It was made by the Efficiency Awards Committee of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering in recognition of his ingenuity and resourcefulness in developing three pieces of research apparatus used in chemical analyses of sugar beets.

McLain heads Grain Branch

Marvin L. McLain is the new director of the Grain Branch Production and Marketing Administration, with William McArthur as deputy. Mr. McLain is from Iowa, where he has had long experience in cooperative marketing work and as chairman of his county PMA Committee and since last March as Chairman of the State Committee. He has also been a member of the 14-man National Agricultural Advisory Committee to assist the Secretary of Agriculture on policy and operational matters.

Wedlock warning

In notices and reminders to all foreign service employees issued lately by the Government it is stated regarding alien marriages: "Before contracting marriage with a person of foreign nationality an employee must request permission to do so from his own particular agency head. Requests will be forwarded to the head of the employing agency through the Chief of the Diplomatic Mission for his recommendation. Marriage without such permit or marriage following denial of permission shall result at once in separation from the service."

Area administrative list

Changes made in the field servicing areas of the USDA agencies necessitate revision of the Area Administrative Services Technicians. The latest official lineup of these technicians by geographic areas is as follows: New England and Northeast Area, A. S. Barnhart, SCS Regional Administrative Service Division, Center Building, 6800 Market Street, Upper Darby, Pa.; Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, USDA Office of Plant and Operations; North and South Carolina and Tennessee, Murray Hays, Area Administrative Services Division, SCS, Schuyler Building, Lee and Church Streets, Spartanburg, S. C.; Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Carl Cauthen, Administrative Services Division, Farmers Home Administration, Montgomery 4, Ala.

Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Richard Bender, Area Administrative Services Division, Production and Marketing Administration, 623 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago 5, Ill.; Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, C. D. Thomas, Regional Administrative Services Division, SCS, 434 N. Plankinton Avenue, Milwaukee, Wis.; Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Max W. Ulery, Administrative Services Division, FHA, 2007 McKinney Avenue, Dallas 1, Texas.

Oklahoma, Texas, Donnell F. Webb, Regional Administrative Services Division, SCS, 3500 McCart Street, Fort Worth, Texas; North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, H. C. Cole, Regional Administrative Services Division, SCS, 13th and N Streets, Lincoln, Nebr.; Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, L. B. Owen, Area Administrative Services Division, FHA, 948–50 Broadway, Denver 3, Colo.; Washington, Oregon, Idaho, A. W. Middleton, Regional Administrative Services Division, SCS, Ross Building, 209 S. W. 5th Avenue, Portland 4, Ore.; California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Eugene D. Moran, Area Administrative Services Division, PMA, Federal Center Building, Denver, Colo.

Tariff man Schreiber

Walter R. Schreiber, well known USDA authority on world trade in fruits and nuts, has been appointed by the President to the U. S. Tariff Commission for a term expiring June 16, 1958. A native of Portland, Oreg., Mr. Schreiber joined the Department in 1934 as a Junior Economist with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. He entered the field of foreign dried fruit and nut reporting as a Department representative in Paris in 1938. He served as an Army captain in World War II. Since then he has been in charge of foreign dried fruit and nut forecasting and reporting for the Foreign Agricultural Service. His estimates and situation studies found in "Foreign Crops and Markets" and "Foreign Agricultural Circulars" furnished a basis for international trading operations.

Textile explainer

Sailing for Italy, Dr. Margaret Goldsmith, bacteriologist, will describe some recent research of the BHNHE textile laboratories before the International Congress of Microbiologists, meeting in Rome, September 6–12. Her studies were designed to learn more about the cause and prevention of microbial damage that can weaken fabrics made from fibers of protein, such as wool, milk, or corn. The work she will report has laid a foundation for a test method for use in this research.

Florists honor Fossum

M. Truman Fossum, agricultural economist in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, has received an award for outstanding research for the year 1952 from the Foundation for Floriculture of the Society of American Florists. The award was presented at the 69th Annual Convention of the Society held in Detroit, Mich., on July 28. The citation was given in recognition of 8 years of significant statistical research in floriculture, which culminated in the publication in 1952–53 of Mr. Fossum's "Trade in Horticultural Specialties" by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. It also covered research done with Cornell University, Purdue University, the Bureau of the Census, and the New York State Flower Growers, Inc.

Dr. Weigel retires

Dr. Charles A. Weigel retired June 30, 1953, for health reasons. He has been in charge of the field station at Beltsville, Md., for the Division of Truck Crops and Garden Insect Investigations, BEPQ. His career in USDA, which covered more than 35 years, was interrupted only by service with the Army Medical Corps in World War I. He graduated with the B. S. degree from the University of New Hampshire, his native State, in 1916. Degrees of M. S. and Ph. D. were earned at Ohio State University. In March 1918 he joined the Federal Horticultural Board as an Assistant Inspector. In 1920 he was transferred to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine to do a study of bulb insects. This has been a major activity of Dr. Weigel since, and his work with sodium cyanide and calcium cyanide led to the development of better control measures for many insect pests of greenhouse-grown plants. Later he did considerable work on mushroom insects. He was the author or co-author of more than 100 publications. Of these, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1495, "Insect Enemies of the Flower Garden," was the most widely distributed USDA publication for many years after its issuance in 1926. Dr. Weigel was the senior author also of Miscellaneous Publication No. 626, "Handbook of Insect Enemies of Flowers and Shrubs." He resides at 9119 Woodland Road, Silver Spring, Md. He will serve as collaborator without compensation.

Farm paper meeting

Office of Information personnel will aid in shaping the program for the fall meeting of the American Agricultural Editors' Association, to be held at Washington, D. C., Sept. 14–16. Agricultural Research Administration workers and the Office of the Secretary are cooperating.

ACE awards

At Berkeley, Calif., in July, the American Agricultural College Editors Association made awards for distinguished journalistic service to farm folks over a period of 25 years. The receivers were: Werner Meyer, Office of Experiment Stations, Frank Teuton, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, Leslie Combs, Soil Conservation Service, and Dana F. Reynolds, Mutual Security Agency.

Jobs for youth

According to reliable personnel spokesmen, there is a continued interest in the employment of young people in USDA. This is despite the fact that young people do not have enough years of service behind them to place them in a highly favorable retention position. Careers in the service are still open and attract numbers of young persons even in the face of high levels of demand by industry and commerce.

Community chest

Secretary Benson is the Department Chairman of the 1953–54 Community Chest Campaign in the local area as part of the Government Unit supporting it. Richard D. Aplin, Administrative Assistant Secretary, is his assistant for the campaign. An organization and planning meeting will be held in September, at which time financial goals will be determined with the aid of the several agency Division Chairmen.

Fort Wingate lab transfer

Transfer of the Southwestern Range and Sheep Breeding Laboratory at Fort Wingate, N. M., as of August 1, from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, to our Bureau of Animal Industry, was announced by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay. Emphasis will continue to be placed on special needs of Southwestern Indian tribes for rug wool, but the laboratory will also stress breeding of sheep for both Indian and white flock raisers.

Blood mobile dates

The USDA Division of Employee Health has arranged to have the American Red Cross mobile blood collection unit visit the Department headquarters. The dates listed for its visits are September 16, October 21, and December 9. Increased need for blood to meet emergency demands is emphasized. This includes the production of gamma globulin to aid in fighting polio.

New officials take oaths

On July 21, John H. Davis and Romeo E. Short were sworn in as Assistant Secretaries of Agriculture. Mr. Davis will continue his responsibility for commodity marketing and adjustment work and serve as President of the Commodity Credit Corporation. Mr. Short, who since last January served as director of Agricultural Credit Services, and since March as head of the newly created Foreign Agricultural Service, continues to be responsible for all Department activity relating to foreign trade in farm commodities. Reorganization Plan No. 2 also provided for a new Administrative Assistant Secretary, to which position Richard D. Alpin was named by Secretary Benson. He has served as director of Departmental Activities and will continue in this capacity.

Radioactive matters

UPON RECOMMENDATION of the Atomic Energy Commission, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine has set up a Radioisotope Committee to supervise and control the radioactive materials used in the Bureau's research program. This is a standard procedure when the Atomic Energy Commission provides access to such materials to outside research agencies.

H. L. Haller is chairman of the committee, with Joseph H. Davis as secretary. Other members are C. C. Roan, radiological safety officer, F. H. Babers, K. A. Haines, and M. E. Yount. The duties of the full committee as well as that of the radiological safety officer, are set forth in a written agreement. These responsibilities are broad and inclusive. They may approve or disapprove plans for using radioisotopes, prescribe conditions to be met, training required, approve requests for materials from AEC, action to be taken when rules are disregarded, assist in an advisory capacity with bureau laboratories, and keep a file of all actions, transactions, and reports.

The special safety officer makes inspections of installations for safety and efficiency, maintains shipping records and disposal notes, and keeps a file of research reports submitted. A special informative directive has been issued to laboratories who may wish to apply for radioisotopes with directions for filling out their applications. Rules for safe handling of the radioactive materials are appended. Because lands on which these potentially hazardous materials are used must be within the control of the Bureau, all areas where radioactive materials are in use or storage must be off limits for those without any business thereon and be properly posted as a warning. Regulations for waste materials and disposal of both short lived and long lasting isotopes are also covered in the statement. Smoking, eating or drinking, or use of cosmetics is prohibited in exposed areas.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 1953

On the science circuit

EACH State agricultural experiment station, in order to qualify for continuing Federal-grant research support, is required to give satisfactory evidence that Federal grants are used in accordance with the provisions of the several authorizing acts.

The Office of Experiment Stations, R. W. Trullinger, Chief, a constituent agency of the Agricultural Research Administration, is responsibile for the administration of the Federal-grant research acts and is required by law to give technical advice and assistance to the experiment stations and to participate in the planning and coordination of their research.

The OES technical staff consists of trained and experienced research specialists in the different subject-matter fields. For effective coordination it is necessary for them to have broad experience in research planning and administration and a good knowledge of agricultural research procedures and standards. Research carried on by the Stations with Federal–grant funds is examined and discussed with project leaders by the OES technical staff during annual visits to the States. They also consider regional cooperative research in which two or more experiment stations are cooperating to solve problems that concern the agriculture of more than one State. This examination provides the primary basis for certification of each State to receive the grant funds.

The law requires that annual reports be made to the Congress regarding research supported by Federal–grant funds and the expenditures thereon. Regulations require OES to give advance approval of each Federal–grant research project. It is necessary that the specialist staff also be familiar with the research program at the experiment stations supported by non-Federal funds. This permits effective coordination of each new research undertaking with related research in progress. Participation in planning and coordination of experiment station research requires that the OES specialist staff function in a consulting capacity to numerous technical and scientific committees of experiment station and Department research workers.

The latest list of OES experiment station administrators includes:

Georgian Adams, nutrition and home economics; Dwight L. Espe, dairy husbandry; Nolan F. Farris, forage crops; Willard H. Garman, soil technology; James O. Grandstaff, animal husbandry; Charles G. Grey, veterinary medicine; Camille L. Lefebvre, botany; David V. Lumsden, vegetable crops; Edward R. McGovran, entomology; Werner P. Meyer, research information; Ralph B. Nestler, poultry husbandry; Barton C. Reynolds, agricultural engineering; Glenn R. Smith, agricultural economics; Henry M. Steece, agronomy; Whitney B. Stout, marketing technology; Joseph W. Wellington, horticulture.

Centenary

The science of economic entomology will observe its 100th anniversary in 1954. Elaborate preparations are under way, with the USDA Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine taking a leading part.

Crop investment aid

Crop insurance programs of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation now operate in more than 900 of the Nation's 3,000 plus counties. They include wheat, corn, tobacco, cotton, flax, and beans. In many areas insurance is also written on multiple crop investments, protecting the cost of producing a variety of crops on a farm under a single policy. In one Florida county, crop insurance is offered to citrus growers.

Using USDA films

Our Motion Pictures Service learns that some film librarians are permitting the removal of parts of scenes from USDA films for use in television programs. This is contrary to regulations. The rule is that films of USDA production may not be cut or altered in any manner whatsoever. When televised they must be shown in their entirety with titles. They may be used solely on noncommercial programs. A special footage of agricultural scenes to be used on a reimbursable basis is kept in the MPS library for use without the regular restrictions.

Kilowatt customers

IN STUDIES made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Iowa State College and lately published, numerous cogent reasons for the almost universal adoption of electric energy on farms of the typical corn belt-livestock kind are recited again.

Replacing hired labor is No. 1 consideration aside from the convenience and comfort angles. But to know how efficient this replacement is requires facts on farm wage rates as well as costs of electric energy and equipment items. The answer in Iowa experience seems to be thus: That in the area during the 1940–50 decade, index rates of farm wages increased 230 percent, whereas the cost of the first 200 kilowatt-hours of current per month jumped only 20 percent. Likewise in some cases there was an actual decrease in average cost of all electricity used through 1949. Meantime the cost of electric motors only doubled, the cost of electric water heaters increased only 54 percent, and of pressure water systems only 36 percent.

Another important consideration is linked with the self-evident fact that the age of farm operators is much advanced over former times. By cutting out heavy lifting, complicated routine, and disagreeable and sometimes dangerous tasks, it is often possible now with electricity to utilize family labor, especially elderly or partly incapacitated workers, for jobs that otherwise would require an able-bodied man.

By saving energy, electrical equipment makes it possible to reduce hard work and allow persons to accomplish more with much less fatigue. Electricity, they point out, improves distribution of farm labor through a season, aids timing of production, reduces breakdown and fire hazards, improves the quality and uniformity of products sold, and increases farm output by increasing the capacity of a given labor force to handle more crops and livestock enterprises.

New Staff Changes

Two changes in the administrative staff were effective September 1. Richard D. Aplin, administrative assistant secretary, has returned to his former position as administrator of the Boston, Mass., Federal milk order. John C. Davis, administrative assistant, returns to his place as farm editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Ralph S. Roberts succeeds Mr. Aplin as administrative assistant secretary. Mr. Roberts has been Director of Finance for the Department since 1949. Joseph C. Wheeler, Deputy Budget Director, succeeds Mr. Roberts as Director.

268146°—53

Puerto Rico's pattern

PUERTO RICO's problems and opportunities in agriculture are thoroughly discussed and analyzed in "A Comprehensive Agricultural Program for Puerto Rico," a new U. S. Department of Agriculture report by Nathan Koenig. Published in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the report is primarily for use on the Island in the development and improvement of agriculture and the local economy. It is the result of a prolonged intensive study of the Island and its resources under the direction of Mr. Koenig, who is with the Office of the Secretary.

The problems surveyed in the report are deeply rooted in the events and actions of the past, tracing often to the days of Spanish colonization. Briefly, the basic struggle of the people of this Island has long centered on getting enough to eat in the face of a rapidly increasing population, the neglect and even destruction of limited natural resources, and the failure to follow a pattern of production that would provide adequately for the people and yield a decent standard of living. The report contains numerous constructive suggestions and recommendations looking to a progressive course of action.

Puerto Rico now has close to 2½ million people, or a population density of about 650 per square mile—one of the highest in the world. In recent years these people have made real strides in improving their social and economic conditions, especially in the towns and cities. Since agriculture is and undoubtedly will long continue to be the backbone of the Island's economy, the report emphasizes the importance of narrowing the wide gap in living standards that exists between urban and rural areas. This should be done not by doing less in the urban sections, but by doing more of consequence in the rural communities where incomes and levels of living are lowest, where essential facilities for education and other social needs are sorely lacking, and where the birth rate is among the world's highest.

One of the fundamental drawbacks to progress on a balanced scale, the report shows, is that both the farm and factory forces have had their focus primarily on producing for the export market. This overlooks the great potential of the local market which has to rely so heavily on imports to meet consumption requirements. The report stresses the importance of producing for the *total market.* It proposes an attainable pattern of production designed to bring about greater diversification of farm output so as to more nearly meet local consumption needs without interfering with production for export.

The report points out that since Puerto Rico has only a very limited amount of land suitable for agriculture, the main hope for raising the level of farm output lies in obtaining economically higher yields from each acre and every unit of livestock. The report shows that with improved production techniques and some shifts in land use, this mostly mountainous Island could have a more diversified and highly productive agriculture. Measures suggested as needed to strengthen agriculture there include soil conservation and erosion control; reforestation and proper forest and grasslands management; improvements in rural education, extension, and agricultural research; provision for adequate farm credit with emphasis on existing facilities properly expanded; establishment of modern facilities for marketing, processing, and utilizing farm products; and adoption of new enlightened land and tax policies.

In conclusion, the author states that to carry out the comprehensive agricultural program that is proposed for Puerto Rico will require the full cooperation of all groups on the Island, inspired leadership and ingenuity on the part of those who work with farmers, and widespread public understanding and support. It is a challenge to everyone who has a stake in Puerto Rico's future. The success that may be achieved by such a program can only be measured, of course, by what is actually accomplished on the land and among the people themselves.

The report represents a significant contribution to the improvement of agriculture and rural living in underdeveloped and other areas having similar problems. It is well written and illustrated. Printed in a limited edition, copies cost $1.75 through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office.

Moore honored

One man got a 40-year length of service award in Region No. 3 of the U. S. Forest Service. This year Charles E. Moore of the Lincoln National Forest was the only person honored with such an award.

Alaska research

Congress in its enactment of the Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1954 ruled that the administration of direct Federal appropriations to the Alaska Experiment Station be transferred to the Office of Experiment Stations of the Agricultural Research Administration. Don L. Irwin directs joint Federal-Territorial research programs, with Dr. A. H. Mick, director of Extension, as associate director.

Said on the side

COUNTRY TEACHERS are usually scarce—especially the kind we long remember. Perhaps your own mother had known your school principal in legendary days of yore—in that long distant time of her youth and yearning for learning she never fully realized. But he, being a man and a persistent seeker after advantages and careers had been able to follow his star and get his coveted spot as chief of the local bookish world in time when books were honored and wisdom revered in our old valley. Later it became her privilege and reward, however, to send her children to sit under the approving eye of this ordinary country teacher—risen under the system of the times to be the town's symbol of studious living, and a constant local authority on all matters that farm grit and muscle alone would not solve. So you spent 8 years of grade school and 4 terms of high school in the realm where he was the boss. He probably was a rather small pickle in the sprawling educational patch, and was minus degrees or titles (except the local greeting of "professor"). Yet one can be quite certain that most of his old pupils absorbed from him a feeble gleam of what life holds for those who are unfailingly curious and who press for better answers to hidden secrets and unlocked visions from which have come the marvels man can do. We are sure that "old Prof" is up there somewhere going with measured tread through fields eternal and counseling sagely with the heavenly board. At least he showed us that it is not the power or the volume of learning that counts in teaching. It's the vigor of your faith in new knowledge as a living force for progress and proof of man's imortality that leaves the strongest hunger in young sprouting minds.

Johnson to Beltsville

The former leader of soybean research in the Carolinas, Dr. H. W. Johnson, has joined Dr. D. F. Beard, head of the division of forage crops and diseases at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Dr. Johnson, a native of Tennessee, is widely known to the soybean industry.

Social security studies

In 1950, coverage of regular hired farm workers was enacted as an amendment to the Old Age and Survivors Insurance Program of the Social Security Administration. Because it is important to know how farmers are now providing for their old age and to learn their views with regard to possible extension of the coverage to farm operators, surveys of farmers were made in three States. The surveys were made by the Agricultural Experiment Stations in Connecticut, Wisconsin and Texas in cooperation with the BAE. Preliminary reports of the Connecticut and Texas studies are available from the Division of Economic Information, BAE.

More foreign workers

FOREIGN TECHNICIANS listed on the employment roster as of August 5 by our Foreign Agricultural Service as presently assigned to duty in Latin America are as follows—with previous position, legal residence, and present title:

Bolivia—HANS PLATENIUS, N. Y. State College, New York; Resch. Adv. in Agronomy. W. L. PRITCHETT, Resch. Grad. Asst., Arkansas; Agronomist-Soils. HARRY WISE, USDA-PMA, Alabama, Agric. Econ. J. A. MUNRO, N. D. College, N. Dakota, Resch. Adv. in Entomology. D. A. SHUHART, USDA-SCS, Texas, Resch. Adv. in Horticulture. F. S. ANDREWS, Va. Poly. Inst., Virginia, Resch. Adv. in Horticulture. E. N. GUTIERREZ, N. Mex. Extension Serv., New Mexico, Gen. Ext. Specialist. MIRIAM HUDDLE, USDA Library, Ohio, Librarian. K. K. HENNESS, Univ. of Ariz., Arizona, Gen. Ext. Specialist. R. O. BLODGETT, J. L. King Co., Minnesota, Farm Mgt. Spec. F. J. SHIDELER, Colo. A&M, Colorado, Information Ext. Spec. ELLA CROSBY, Student, Tennessee, Home Econ. Ext. Spec. F. H. BELL, U. S. Amer. Chem. Corp., Maryland, Resch. Spec. in Plant Pathology. H. A. KRAMER, La. State. Expt. Station, Texas, Resch. Spec. in Engineering. A. R. MIDGLEY, Vermont Expt. Station, Vermont, Resch. Adv. in Agronomy. MAURINE HEARN, Texas A&M College, Texas, Home Econ. Ext. Spec.

Brazil—W. C. TUCKER, California, Resch. Director. F. A. THOMPSON, Jr., USDA-SCS, S. Carolina, Resch. Adv. in Soil Cons. L. E. LONG, USDA-FAS, Mississippi, Resch. Adv. Animal Traction. ANNA JENKINS, USDA-PISAE, New York, Resch. Adv. in Plant Pathology. H. A. CARDINELL, Michigan, Resch. Adv. in Horticulture. R. L. FOWLER, USDA-FAS, California, Resch. Spec. in Horticulture.

Colombia—H. J. BROOKS, Sr. Inspec. Puerto Rico, Tennessee. Livestock Ext. Adv.

Costa Rica—H. MOWRY, Florida Exp. Station, Consultant-Director. G. P. GIBES, Int. Bur. of Reclam., Montana, Resch. Spec. in Soils.

Cuba—J. W. JOHNSON, Jr., Delaware, Chief Agriculturist. K. M. KAISER, Calif. Fiber Co., California, Resch. Adv. in Engineering. M. D. JONES, Okla. A&M College, Oklahoma, Resch. Adv. in Agronomy. S. W. MCBIRNEY, USDA-PISAE, Colorado, Resch. Adv. in Engineering. B. S. CRANDALL, USDA-FAS, Georgia, Resch. Adv. in Plant Pathology. H. T. LOVE, Uni. of Calif. Student, California. Resch Adv. in Biochemistry.

Dominican Republic—E. G. BEINHART, USDA-BAIC, Pennsylvania. Resch. Adv. in Tobacco. W. G. BRADLEY, USDA-EPQ, Iowa, Resch. Adv. in Entomology. C. R. MUHR, Green Giant Co., Minnesota, Resch. Spec. in Soils-Agronomy. H. D. LYNN, Texas Expt. Station, Texas, Cotton Agronomist.

Ecuador—LEE HINES, USDA-FAS, Louisiana, Chief Agriculturist. S. S. WHITE, Amer. Univ., Michigan, Resch. Spec. in Horticulture. R. DESROSIERS, Student, Connecticut, Resch. Spec. in Plant Pathology. J. P. KEENAN, Self Employed, Maryland, Ext. Spec. W. V. HARLAN, USDA-FAS, Minnesota, Resch. Adv. in Agronomy. J. M. AIKMAN, Iowa State Col., Iowa, Resch. Adv. in Agronomy. HAROLD E. CHRISTIE, USDA-FHA, Indiana, Ext. Adv. in Information. H. R. YUST, USDA-EPQ, Kansas, Resch. Spec. in Entomology. F. L. O'ROURKE, Mich. State Col., Michigan, Resch. Spec. in Horticulture. R. E. WATERS, Private Indus., Mississippi, Resch. Spec. in Dairy Husbandry. D. COSTA, Private Indus., Virginia, Farm Mgt. Spec. T. E. DUNCAN, Georgia Exp. Station, Georgia, Resch. Spec. in Engineering.

El Salvador—J. GUISCAFRE-ORRILLAGO, Student, Puerto Rico, Chief Agriculturist. E. W. RANCK, USDA-FCA, Maryland, Resch. Adv. in Agronomy. A. F. KINNISON, USDA-SCS, Arizona, Resch. Adv. in Horticulture. RALPH E. HANSEN, Consumers Co-op Assn., Missouri, Ext. Adv. in Information. N. C'DE BACA, Student, New Mexico, Gen. Ext. Adv. P. A. BERRY, USDA-EPQ, S. Carolina, Resch. Adv. in Entomology. E. D. MATTHEWS, USDA-PISAE, Florida, Resch. Adv. in Agronomy E. W. BARLOW, Int. Dept. Indian Aff., Oklahoma, Resch. Adv. in Engineering. F. R. OLIVE, Army Dept., Arkansas, Resch. Adv. in Agronomy. I. A. DYER, Univ. of Georgia, Georgia, Resch. Spec. Animal Husbandry.

Guatemala—R. C. LORENZ, USDA-FAS, Minnesota, Chief Agriculturist. C. S. SIMMONS, USDA-PISAE, Maryland, Resch. Adv. in Soils. R. L. SQUIBBS, Student, California, Resch. Adv. in Animal Husbandry. F. J. LEBEAU, USDA-PISAE, Mississippi, Resch. Adv. in Plant Pathology. M. A. JONES, USDA-BAIC, Virginia, Resch. Spec. in Biochemistry.

Nicaragua—V. C. PETERSON, USDA-FS, Utah, Chief Agriculturist. P. G. ADAMS, Oklahoma A & M Col., Oklahoma, Gen. Ext. Adv. R. A. WHITE, JR., Student, New Jersey, Resch. Adv. in Forestry. P. M. PHILLIPPEE, Univ. of Kentucky, Kentucky, Resch. Adv. in Agronomy. W. P. DURUZ, Ore. State Col., Oregon, Resch. Adv. in Horticulture. R. B. SWAIN, USDA-EPQ, Utah, Resch. Adv. in Entomology. H. E. CARVER, USDA-BAI, Louisiana, Resch. Spec. in Animal Husbandry. S. C. LITZENBERGER, USDA-ARA, Alaska, Resch. Adv. in Agronomy. F. A. NYLAND, N. C. State College, N. Carolina, Resch. Adv. in Voc. Training. J. E. FLANAGAN, Unemployed, Pennsylvania, Resch. Adv. in Engineering.

Peru—H. J. HENNEY, Col. A&M Col., Colorado, Chief Agriculturist. C. A. VAN DOREN, USDA-SCS, Illinois, Research Director. D. S. HUBBELL, USDA-SCS, New Mexico, Resch. Adv. in Agronomy. C. L. LONG, Interior Dept. Bur. of Reclam., S. Dakota, Resch. Adv. in Horticulture. A. F. SWANSON, USDA-PISAE, Kansas, Resch. Adv. in Plant Genetics. L. R. SINCLAIR, USDA-BAI, Maryland, Resch. Asst. in Animal Path.

Regional for Latin America—WM. COWGILL, USDA-PISAE, Maryland, Regional Consul. in Horticulture. KEITH HIMEBAUGH, USDA-Office of Inform., Michigan, Information Consul. E. W. LAAKE, Inter. Dept. Bur. of Reclam., Montana, Resch. Adv. in Entomology. W. P. SELLERS, Louisiana State Exp. Station, Regional Consul. in Agronomy. F. L. WELLMAN, USDA-FAS, Wisconsin, Regional Consul. in Pathology.

Readers' reminders

Co-op institute talk

Secretary Benson gave a good summary of the problems and policies of the Department in an address he gave at the American Institute of Cooperation, Columbia, Mo. Ask *USDA* Editor for your copy, entitled "Working Together."

Livestock statistics

Statistical Bulletin No. 127 issued last June is a handy reference for your livestock files. It is a compilation of the varied statistics and related data on livestock market news. Write to the Information Services of the Production and Marketing Administration while the supply lasts. Otherwise it costs 30 cents per copy from the Superintendent of Documents.

Arboretum folder

Have you ever been to the National Arboretum located in the northeast area of the District of Columbia? It was established by Congress in 1927, but only last month has a special descriptive folder appeared concerning its strategic location in an intermediate climatic zone enabling the cultivation and study of plants and woody shrubs from a wide range of habitat. Copies of the new folder may be had from Inquiries and Distribution Service in the Office of Information here.

Wheat referendum

You may get a State by State summary of the August 14 referendum on wheat marketing quotas by writing to the *USDA* Editor. It might be handy for future reference.

By all means

The purposes and activities of our USDA Clubs in the field areas are described briefly and attractively in a new booklet. It is the "USDA Club Guide" compiled by the Division of Employee Performance and Development, Office of Personnel. Doubtless a few copies are already in the hands of your own Pers officers.

Rural health lists

Annotated lists of selected references on rural health is Library List No. 60. The USDA Library has a limited number of copies for distribution. It is the work of the USDA Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Public Health Service in the Department of Health, Education, and Public Welfare.

Fact book on aging

Varied statistics and other data on America's aging population, their sources and amounts of income, old age protection, and similar facts have been prepared by the Federal Committee on Aging and Geriatrics. It sells for 30 cents a copy and may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. It's always better to buy coupons in sets of 20 for $1.00 because postage stamps are not acceptable and currency is sent at the sender's risk. Better ask them for new catalog lists while you are at it.

Brief and choice

Cotton fertilizer

According to estimates by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA, total fertilizer used this year on cotton planted in more than a dozen States amounted to 2,552,128 tons, considerable larger than in 1952, and compared with 1,759,094 tons for the 1942–51 average. The average applied per acre was 355 pounds at an average cost of $9.85.

Benson girls at 4–H rally

Three daughters of Secretary and Mrs. Ezra Taft Benson—Beverly, Bonnie, and Beth—accompanied by their mother, attended an assembly of Maryland 4–H clubs at College Park on August 5. Beverly and Bonnie modeled garments made from farm byproducts during a talk on new uses for crop wastes and residues given by F. L. Teuton, information officer for the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry.

Changes in BAI field staff

Dr. J. D. Puppel succeeds Dr. J. F. Gest (retired) as inspector in charge at Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. M. S. Shahan, who supervised part of the Government's cooperative foot-and-mouth disease campaign in Mexico, is the new inspector in charge at Greenport, Long Island, N. Y. Dr. F. H. Sharp succeeds Dr. L. E. Patton (deceased) as inspector at Albuquerque, N. M. J. E. Nordby is on a foreign assignment with FAS, and his place as head of the Western Sheep Breeding Laboratory at Dubois, Idaho, is taken by Dr. Claude E. Terrill.

Hollis promoted

Richard A. Hollis, who began work for USDA's Office of Information as a messenger in June 1930, is advanced to be the head of the Inquiries and Distribution unit in the Division of Publications. He succeeds Fred Zimmerman, who remains as an assistant for the present. A native of Washington, D. C., Mr. Hollis did personnel work in OI for several years.

Did you see it?

The National Geographic Magazine for August carried a story by its staff members about the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, Md. Officials and employees here are delighted with the article, which is splendidly illustrated in color and halftone photographs.

Cordial relations

Said R. B. McLeaish, Administrator of Farmers Home Administration, in a general letter to their employees: "One of the first things I wanted to do on coming into this fine organization was to meet all my fellow-workers. I plan to come into each Division and have a friendly visit with you. I also hope that within the next few months I shall have the opportunity of visiting every State Office and as many County Offices as soon as possible. Our agency has a fine reputation, and it is evidently due to the good work that you are all doing."

Crom to Dakota

Robert Crom, Radio and Television Service of the Office of Information, has resigned to take the position of communications director at the North Dakota State College. He will coordinate methods and materials used in all media and tie in somewhat with the new research studies in communications under the Kellogg Grant at Michigan State College.

Tung oil laboratory

The United States Tung Oil Laboratory is located at Bogalusa, La., in charge of R. S. McKinney. Its work is with development of new methods of drying and storage of tung fruit for oil extraction; better methods of analysis of fruits and nuts for oil and moisture, and better control of the methods of expressing oil and recovering the meal; and finally, development of new uses for tung meal. The laboratory is one of the field agencies of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry.

Courtesy award

After asking many irritating questions to test the good nature of more than 200 Federal workers who occupy positions close to the visiting public, the Washington Times-Herald announced a list of 10 most courteous employees. The name of Mrs. Alice M. Shoemaker, Inquiries and Distribution Service, Office of Information, was high on the list and her picture appeared in the newspaper.

Military rights

The U. S. Civil Service Commission has announced the right to reemployment of persons who have been discharged from military duty, who left Government service while serving under indefinite appointment. The right is restricted to the geographical area of the installation where he was formerly employed and the Department states that it is the policy to grant promotions in absentia wherever practical. The general rule is to file applications within 90 days after discharge, but hospitalized veterans have a year to file for reemployment.

Federal figurers

New officers of the Federal Government Accountants Association are: Andrew Barr, president, Securities and Exchange Commission; Laurence W. Acker, Army Audit Agency, vice president; Harold R. Gearhart, Treasury Department, vice president; Norman L. Burton, Atomic Energy Commission, secretary; John C. Cooper, Jr., Department of Agriculture, treasurer. The group has about 1,000 members and has eight local chapters outside of Washington.

School lunchers coming

School officials of 12 city, county, and State educational units are invited by Secretary Benson to a meeting at the Department on September 28–29. The call was made to secure advice and guidance from the field people responsible for operating much of the local distribution of food and services through the National School Lunch Program.

Wheat agreement

Wheat covered by the renewed International Wheat Agreement that began operation on August 1 amounts to 421,152,000 bushels. The Department helps operate the agreement, which this year is well below the volume of 595,542,000 first provided for under its terms. Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from participation makes the main difference.

Annual leave reduction

Office of Personnel has distributed schedules suggesting a standard formula for reducing excess annual leave within a 10-year period to meet the requirements of the latest law. For those with annual leave accumulation in excess of 30 days, of from 1 to 12 days, the annual reduction would be one-third of the excess accumulation. For an employee at the high extreme of between 49 and 60 days above the 30 days established as the future maximum, the annual reduction rate would be one-tenth of the excess accumulation. A separate schedule is presented for employees outside of the continental United States.

Loyalty regulations

Chapter 59, employee loyalty program, of the USDA administrative regulations, has been revised. It provides regulations and instructions for agencies to follow regarding investigations under Executive Order 10450, Security Requirements for Government Employment.

Jull hall

The new poultry building at the University of Maryland has been named "Jull Hall" in honor of Dr. Morley A. Jull, head of the University's poultry department. Before coming to Maryland, Dr. Jull was senior poultry husbandman for USDA, and helped plan the extensive poultry research facilities located at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md.

Andrews to Michigan

Stanley Andrews, formerly in many executive positions with USDA, including director of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, later head of the Technical Cooperation Administration, is the director of the National Project in Agricultural Communications. The project was developed by the Association of Agricultural College Editors under a grant of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. It is located at Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich.

Soil conservation

The 1954 agricultural conservation program will have an authorized 195 million dollars to be allocated among the States on a formula similar to previous ones. Federal funds will be used only for those practices deemed essential in the public interest and which the farmer or rancher states he would not otherwise carry out on his own resources. Land use adjustments with legume and grass cover crops and initiating systematic crop rotations is an important practice in the 1954 program. The PMA farmer–committeemen will conduct the work at the county and community levels, with technical responsibility in their respective fields assigned to the Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service.

Butter sales problem

DAIRYMEN WANT more clear-cut and reliable information about the volume of butter sales in this era of strong competition from substitutes, especially in relation to the prevailing retail prices paid. Their idea as expressed to USDA workers is that this might help determine the level of prices or the price ranges at which current dairy production of butterfat would easily move into consumption if there were no price supports in effect.

Previous published studies are available but they do not entirely fit the present situation since so many State and Federal taxes and restrictions on oleomargarine have been eliminated. In 1949 Iowa State College issued Research Bulletin 368 wherein it was stated that a change in price of one percent changed butter consumption in the opposite direction about 1.3 percent. Later F. Pearson and E. E. Vial of Cornell University found a much less effect of the price of butter upon its consumption. For the 1920–41 period they found that a one percent retail price change caused the consumption to go in the opposite direction only from about one-tenth to one-third of one percent. Studies and interviews have also been made by the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station and others recently concerning the exclusive or simultaneous use of butter and margarine.

The dairy industry seeks the aid of research on a better planned basis than before, however. The reason is obvious. Department figures show that in the 1919–38 era the consumption of farm and creamery butter averaged over two billion pounds annually, while that of oleomargarine ran about 300 million pounds. Butter then averaged 1.9 times the price charged for the substitute. But in 1951–52 the consumption of butter averaged 1.4 billion pounds a year and that of oleomargarine 1.1 billions, with butter prices two and a half times the price of margarine.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR SEPTEMBER 23, 1953

Do we know what for?

THE LONGEST distance between two points is that between the head of an agency and the field employee who carries the agency's program to the public. How to bridge this gap is a problem that has troubled every large organization.

Some time ago a panel of agency heads of the Department pointed out that one of the major problems of an administrator is how to help employees understand the objectives of the organization. To do the best job possible, employees need to know what the organization is trying to accomplish and how their jobs contribute to it. But more than this is needed. As one of the panel members said, "We need to get a two-way relationship—a two-way communication between the administrator and the fellow who has to do the job."

Just off the press is a timely Department publication on this subject, entitled "Understanding Objectives—A Study in Two-Way Communication," which grew out of the panel discussion mentioned. Part I sums up methods used by agencies of the Department to tell their employees about objectives and policies. Among these are policy statements and memoranda, conferences, house organs, and newsletters. One very effective device, used by the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, is called "Notes from the Chief's Office." This is a weekly newsletter, written in narrative style, which seeks to keep directors of the regional research laboratories and their staffs abreast of research and program development, as well as to describe other matters of interest.

Another example, from a wartime agency, is a bulletin that was called "What's Cooking?" This put before field people suggested proposals to give them an opportunity to submit comments and suggestions. Among other devices that are mentioned are Forest Service family meetings and show-me trips, Office of Personnel ABC staff meetings, REA orientation sessions, Bureau of Animal Industry training guides for supervisors, and Soil Conservation Service training centers.

Main emphasis in the bulletin, however, is on employee participation in management as the best means of insuring understanding of agency objectives. The bulletin points out that "since field employees are the persons who actually carry a program into operation, they probably know better than anyone else how it works, what shortcomings it has, and what people think of it. There should, therefore, be some way to get their suggestions up the line to the top."

An appendix includes three articles on employee participation in management processes. Two of these, entitled "A Technique For Enlisting Employee Cooperation in the Improvement of Administration" and "The 'Up and Down' Program in Farm Security Administration," are by former Department employees.

The bulletin represents contributions from practically all agencies of the Department. It is recommended reading for administrators and first-line supervisors alike. The bulletin was prepared under the direction of an interagency committee headed by James E. Halligan, who recently retired as Assistant Administrator, Farmers' Home Administration. Major credit for the preparation of the bulletin goes to Glenn D. Wagner, Rural Electrification Administration. Copies have been supplied to each agency.

Arthur Dillman dies

Arthur C. Dillman, 72, well-known authority on seed flax production, died at his home in Washington, D. C., August 10. As a flax and forage crop specialist, Mr. Dillman spent 39 years with the Department, and was the author of many bulletins and research reports on the culture of flax and other crops.

Forestry meeting

A proposed program for American forestry with recommendations in five principal fields will be up before the fourth American Forest Congress, October 29–31, in Washington, D. C.

Advising researchers

SEARCHING FOR suitable topics for research is made better and more practical when direct advice is available to scientific personnel from the citizens who need new research and stand to benefit by it. Congress recognized that in wording section 302 of the Research and Marketing Act of 1946. It directed the USDA to set up a National Research Advisory Committee and other appropriate committees to represent producers, industry, Government, and science.

Hence we have numerous functional and commodity advisory committees of permanent standing who consult at intervals with the marketing research directors so as to keep the program responsive to the "grassroots" requirements. Their main recommendations are often used to discuss and prepare agenda for future submission to the Bureau of the Budget in making advance requests and suggestions for continued research in all active lines of effort.

J. Roy Allgyer, of the Agricultural Research Administration staff, has summarized the important contributions that the advisory committee system has rendered in 5 or 6 years of experience with it:

Keeps Government research agencies in closer touch with the needs and problems involved. Gives research agencies the benefit of the thinking and advice of leaders from broad segments who have agricultural interest throughout the country. Results in critical periodic reviews of the aspects of research as it relates to overall objectives. Develops better understanding of the administrative, fiscal, and operational problems faced by public research agencies, and the interrelationship among Federal, State, and private research.

Stimulates closer cooperation and coordination between Department research agencies and between USDA and industry. Contributes to a wider acquaintance between scientists and farm and industrial leaders. Helps to stimulate the imagination and efforts of many research workers both in and out of Government. Helps translate and apply the results of research in our farm and industrial life. Finally, it promotes wider public interest in the general needs and benefits of research.

It might also be said that without any such advisory forces to aid the laboratory and the fieldworkers, the end results of studies in all phases of marketing, processing, and distributing would probably fall short of the desired objectives.

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World plant trading

DOMINANT IN the work of USDA's Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction at the Beltsville, Md., Plant Industry Station are activities related to the international exchange of new and valuable plant materials. According to authorities these activities included sanitary inspection and quarantine procedures last year for 3,887 foreign- and domestic-plant shipments covering over 98,000 items, without counting the incidental distribution of ornamentals from Federal stations.

It used to be that the main flow of plant materials through these official channels comprised plants being introduced into this country from overseas. However, of late the increase in the U. S. Technical Cooperative Missions abroad has a big boom of plant exports. They refer to these as "reverse introductions" sent to foreign lands consisting of the best strains of our cultivated plants of many species. The heavier demand in this field has made extra help at headquarters necessary to handle it.

The Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction is the only unit in USDA primarily concerned with the exchange of living plant materials with other countries of the world—although this is not its only duty. In cooperation with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, it arranges for proper inspection, and then places with United States plant breeders through the New Crops Project all such living plant materials reaching the Department. With its own quarantine facilities at Glenn Dale, Md., it has more latitude as to what may be brought in than almost any other private or public agency. Since its organization in 1898, some 220,000 introductions have been passed on to plantsmen in State and Federal services. Some valuable basic stocks and high-yielding, disease-resistant strains have been thus secured.

Within the framework of the Division's national cooperative plant improvement program are work projects for testing and maintaining the basic plant stocks. A supervisory leader heads up each of these work projects, as follows: W. E. Whitehouse, introduction and evaluation of fruit and vegetable crops; H. L. Hyland, in similar work for field crops; D. S. Correll, handling specialty crops; S. F. Blake, identification of plant specimens and bibliographical investigations; and W. H. Hodge, in charge of the national cooperative program for introduction, screening and preservation of new plant materials.

A national coordinating committee from the various regions of the country acts as advisors and associates to the Division in the cooperative program. They are associated also in this work with Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service. The chairman is R. D. Lewis, director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, while the secretary is C. O. Erlanson, head, Division of P. E. & I.

August lightning fires

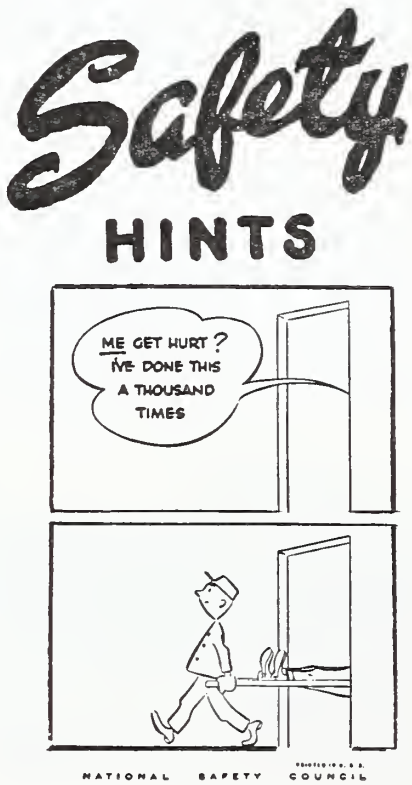
Western regions of the U. S. Forest Service reported 1,500 lightning-caused fires in one week of August. Prolonged drought has made the woods tinder dry and good fuel for strokes of lightning.

Brice Edwards retires

Brice Edwards, a specialist in the field of license enforcement work in the Fruit and Vegetable Branch of PMA, who has served the Department since 1928, retired in August. He did regulatory work in Chicago and Winter Haven, Fla. He is a veteran of World War I. From 1922 to 1928 Mr. Edwards taught vocational agriculture in Missouri.

Fisher back from Europe

Dr. C. H. Fisher, Director of the Southern Regional Research Laboratory of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, spent several weeks in Western Europe this season. He was an official U. S. delegate to the Seventeenth Conference of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry at Stockholm, Sweden. While abroad he visited many chemists in textile and research laboratories to check with them in relation to current projects in line with those under way at the New Orleans laboratory.



Ideal ideas

GREAT STRESS is placed by the supervisors of the Farmers' Home Administration upon the encouragement given to all employees to submit their ideas and suggestions for the betterment of management procedures and practices. The usual official cash awards provided by Congress accompany this open offer that has resulted in significant savings in operating costs.

A detailed annual report showing suggestions received and adopted and the cash awards made is distributed to FHA employees. This year's annual report was included in the recent Management Improvement Bulletin covering suggestion award winners for the period of April through June 1953. The Bulletin also included circled figures indicating the cumulative number of suggestions submitted and adopted for the respective employees. Naturally, other USDA agencies follow the same or similar methods to some extent.

For fiscal 1953, 548 suggestions were received from FHA workers, and 118 were adopted. Cash awards were distributed for the sum of $2,270 to 85 persons. From these ideas at least $46,535 worth of savings were realized in the first year. Close to 10 percent of the employees sent in ideas to clarify and simplify or improve operations. About 23 percent of the suggestions submitted were adopted.

In the latest annual report, "testimonials" supporting and praising the emphasis placed on employee suggestions were cited from State FHA Directors and Area Finance Managers. These included E. R. Arneson, South Dakota; B. W. Lodwick, Iowa; F. L. Spencer, Louisiana; John R. McClung, North Dakota; and C. C. Stubbs, Puerto Rico.

FLB scholarships

Eight Midwest farm boys will enroll as freshmen in State agricultural colleges this fall with the aid of $300 scholarships awarded by the Federal Land Bank of Omaha. Winners were selected by the colleges from high school seniors who applied. The candidate's character, scholastic standing, and participation in farm events and community activities were considered. Last year the scholarships were given only in South Dakota, but this year Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming were included.

Bigger market basket

Economists in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics have figured out a bigger market basket that contains larger quantities and more types of food. This they have used for a revision of the farm–retail price spreads that appear regularly in "Marketing and Transportation Situation." To obtain a proper perspective therefore one should get the supplement recently issued which presents the new statistical relationships by quarters from 1946 through March 1953.

Said on the side

THINKING HABITS of farm folks once upon a time were thought to be influenced most by their extreme isolation. Critics said that farmers were ornery because they kept to themselves in the fields and tending flocks and didn't get to talk with smart city people often enough or hear how faraway foreign folks managed things. But now that modern machinery and labor-saving electric methods have reached most farms, and good roads, autos, and radio link them up tight to cities, we still find farm folks sticking pretty much to their particular way of looking at things which is often different than city workers—and we can't blame it on isolation any more. That's because each 200 acres of good farm land takes less men to run it, and every man left in our old valley has his job cut out for him. He must know his stuff and watch his step and use his old head all the time. This sharpens him up and makes him think for himself and others much more than his old grandpa did He carries much heavier investments and the sun rises and sets just as fast as ever and in the same locations, and time and the weather march on just as powerfully from seedtime to harvest. The second reason has always existed. Farmers are just as close to fresh woods and fields and mellow furrows and growing plants, and work with patient dumb animals as much as their forefathers. There's some kind of lasting effect coming from that open air experience with nature as the boss which we can't exactly describe—even if we ask a high-priced mind expert. The farmer catches himself looking at most things the way we used to in our old valley—even if he gets a temporary job cooped up in a city. Hence many of us calculate that it doesn't pay to educate a farmer too far away from things that make him steadfast and courageous. Discourage the homespun style of realistic farm thinking and you might as well foreclose the freedom that makes farmers usually willing and able to feed the rest of us so abundantly.

Hoopes follows Broadhead

Last month Secretary Benson announced that Daken K. Broadhead had resigned as executive assistant owing to the death of a business partner in California. In his place the Secretary appointed Lorenzo H. Hoopes, Denver, Colo. Mr. Hoopes has been eastern district manager for the Lucerne Milk Co. and has been connected with agricultural marketing organizations for 22 years, with special experience in egg procurement and processing and handling dairy products. He is a native of Brigham City, Utah.

Readers' reminders

Yohe's book

Ralph Yohe, associate editor of *The Prairie Farmer* of Chicago, has had a book recently published by the Iowa State College Press. Its challenging title is "What Our Farmers Can Learn From Other Lands." Mr. Yohe should know, as he has made many extensive trips abroad.

Pressure canners

There's a new circular out now on the use and care of pressure canning apparatus. It's Home and Garden Bulletin No. 30, by Elizabeth Beveridge, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Inquiries and Distribution Service, Office of Information, supplies copies available.

Free Nebraska report

A. E. Anderson, agricultural statistician under State-Federal relationships in the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, announced recently that the 1951 agricultural figures for the State are now available in bulletin form. Interested persons may write to him at 203 Post Office Building, Lincoln 1, Nebr.

USDA club guide

A map on the back cover of the newly published "USDA CLUB Guide" giving the locations of these employee organizations is useful to folks who travel. It has been sent to all USDA Club presidents and all agency heads and personnel officers in the Washington area. Single copies may also be had by writing to E. R. Draheim, Office of Personnel here.

Science translations

The National Science Foundation, in collaboration with the Atomic Energy Commission, has set up at the Library of Congress a cooperative center for the collecting, cataloging, and announcing translations of foreign scientific publications. Monthly lists of translations newly received and those available will be issued. Address all inquiries about the service to Scientific Translations Center, Science Division, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D. C.

Social security study

In 1950, coverage of the hired farm worker was enacted as an amendment to the Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance Program of the Social Security Administration. Because it is important to have the views of farmers with regard to possible extension of the coverage to farm operators, interviews were taken with 257 farm operators toward the program. The work was done by Texas A & M College. A few extra copies are obtainable from Roy L. Roberts, Social Security Administration, Room 804, Equitable Life Building, Baltimore, Md.

Co-op cases summary

Six comments at length on certain selected cooperative legal cases have been combined in circular form by the Cooperative Research and Service Bureau, Farm Credit Administration. They were prepared by Raymond J. Mischler, Office of the Solicitor. The comments do not give the official viewpoints of the USDA as such. They are listed as Summary No. 56, obtainable from FCA.

Grain by rail

Many complex conditions affect the volume of grain and feed products transported by the railroads. Many of the intricate problems involved and the services rendered, as well as the limitations, are given in detail in a new study by William J. Hudson, transportation economist, Marketing and Facilities Research Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. Information Services in PMA distributes copies of this bulletin while the supply lasts.

Farms and farm folks

A special cooperative study has been published to show characteristics of the United States farm operator families, their housing, and other items, including amounts and sources of income by economic classes. It is the work of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, and economists and home economics workers in USDA. Copies of this 98-page report cost 50 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office.

Those annual reports

Office of Information has urged all agencies to reduce the number of copies of their annual reports and to cut their length reasonably. Multiples of 8-page signatures are better than inbetween sizes—32 pages being better than 36 and 16 pages better than 20. Annual reports are not required by law to be printed although they must be issued and submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture. Only those projects definitely authorized should be included.

Brief and choice

Changes in point IV

The technical assistance program has been transferred from the State Department to the new Foreign Operations Administration. As a result, new instructions have been issued which relate to changes in several personnel procedures, mainly those of security clearances. Severe restrictions are also placed on the number of employees who may serve the point IV program at salaries of $12,000 per annum or more.

Identity found

In the 1928 Yearbook of Agriculture the frontispiece in color showed a 12-year-old boy driving some sheep up a country lane. Now it comes to our attention that this boy has grown into an exmember of the Connecticut State Legislature. He is Stanley H. Downs, of Bethany, Conn. He is first selectman at present in his home township. He still owns and runs a farm and has a flock of more than 50 sheep.

Timber resources saved

Timber-resources management by employees of the Forest Service provides for the conduct of the national-forest timber sales—a business with receipts of 70 million dollars and a cut of 5.2 billion board feet in fiscal year 1953. This cut is equal to 15 percent of all lumber manufactured in the United States. The Forest Service is by far the largest single supplier of raw materials for the Nation's forest-products industries, with greater volume demanded owing to the reduced supply of private timber in some areas.

Lytle retires

John W. Lytle has retired as assistant chief of the administrative accounting section, Farmers' Home Administration. Mr. Lytle left private employment at Joplin, Mo., in 1932 to take a 90-day temporary job with the Emergency Crop and Feed Loan Branch of the Farm Credit Administration, and he remained there until 1946. Thereupon he transferred to the new FHA, where he served until retirement. He attended schools in his native State of Missouri, and is a graduate of Benjamin Franklin University, Washington, D. C. In retirement he will take trailer tours.

Rubbing out lice

At the Oregon Experiment Station almost complete control of cattle lice has been secured with a rubbing device. It consists of cables wrapped with burlap treated with 5 percent chlordane in fuel oil at 30-day intervals. Cattle in the feed lots did away with their infestations by rubbing themselves against the cables.

Wheat resistance

Cooperative experiments by Department scientists and those in the Oklahoma and Dakota areas are reported as making good headway in efforts to find selections of wheat which will develop resistance to green bugs and wheat stem sawfly.

Not loans alone

A Farmers' Home Administration borrower came in to pay his loan in full at a Midwest office. They asked him what he thought was the best part of the assistance he had received through FHA. He replied that while he needed the loan badly, the best help he got was from the training he had received in work organization. He said that the carrying out of certain practices and the settling of definite dates for specific operations provided the most valuable phase of guidance provided.

India exchange

Ten young men from farms in Ohio, Kansas, Minnesota, Utah, and New Mexico are in India to live and work with farm families there as part of the International Farm Youth Exchange. Their native escort, who has been staying on western United States farms, is Bhupatrai Trivedi. Next year as a result of a Ford Foundation grant to the National 4–H Club Foundation, 25 exchangees from India and 10 from Pakistan are scheduled to visit farm folks here, and 15 of our youth will go to India and Pakistan.

Bobst appointment

Harvey G. Bobst, Lincoln, Nebr., has been designated acting director of the Northern Plains Region of the Soil Conservation Service. He will take over the work September 30 upon the effective date of the retirement of Arthur E. McClymonds, who has directed SCS work in that region since 1939. Mr. Bobst was born on a farm near Almena, Kans., and is a graduate of Kansas State College.

Praise cotton opener

Several cotton-yarn manufacturers who have tested the new cotton-opener mechanism designed by the Southern Regional Research Laboratory of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry report that it brought them savings in a year through reduced waste of spinnable fiber amounting to enough to pay for the machine's cost. They say that when the opener is used, the removal of trash by standard cleaning equipment is much easier. At least 31 mills are known to be using the opener and 4 manufacturers and 9 companies are licensed to produce it under USDA patents. The inventors are R. A. Rusca and R. C. Young of the SRRL.

Milk Congress meeting

Plans and suggestions leading to better utilization of world milk supplies is part of the theme set for the World Congress for Milk Utilization, sponsored by the Dairy Industries Society International. It will meet at the Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C., November 20–21. The officers say the Congress will act under the stimulation offered by Secretary Benson to devise greater self-help projects.

Forest-fire prevention

The plans and placards for the 1954 cooperative forest-fire-prevention campaign have been distributed to State and Federal officers and all other cooperators for the placing of advance orders early. New visual graphic materials in support of the effort are presented by The Advertising Council, Inc., and the U. S. Forest Service information specialists.

Good loan record

Farmers and ranchers and farm cooperatives in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington used $162,499,480 of credit from units of the Farm Credit Administration during the fiscal year ended last June 30.

Editor pleased

Paul Ives, editor of "Cackle and Crow," of New Haven, Conn., says that he is a great collector of old agricultural texts and histories. Upon request this office sent Mr. Ives a set of the Department documents dealing with landmarks in its development. He forthwith bound each one in board bindings to add to the files of his own "research" library of several thousand books and periodicals.

Wilm to Syracuse

Harold G. Wilm, Division of Forest and Range Influences, U. S. Forest Service, has resigned to become associate dean of the New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, N. Y. Mr. Wilm transferred a few years ago from work with FS in the Pacific Northwest, to the Washington office.

Sam Sloan retires

Sam L. Sloan, Portland, Oreg., State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service since 1945, retired this month after 35 years of public service. Sloan pioneered the establishment of stripcropping in Montana while with the Montana State Extension Service. He entered extension work in 1915 as county agent of Day County, S. Dak. He came to Bozeman, Mont., in 1913 as Extension Agronomist, and joined the SCS at Great Falls, Mont., in December 1935.

July employment data

Separations from the Department as of July 31, 1953, of full-time personnel within the continental limits of the United States, including the temporary employees, amounted to 3,322 persons, or a turnover of 5.3 percent. Outside the Washington area there were 3,145 separations and inside the area the number was 177. Total paid employment on July 31 was 78,006, a decrease of 91 since June 30, 1953. Full-time employment stood at 64,085 on the same date this year, or 303 more than in June. Most of the decreases in June–July were with part-time and intermittent workers.

Golden nematode control

Under a joint official agreement pursuant to law, compensation of $60 an acre is paid to cooperating Long Island potato growers with lands infested with the golden nematode, if they refrain from planting potatoes on the areas of infestation, plant only crops approved by the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets on such land, and otherwise comply in good faith with the regulations executed in the form of an agreement. New York has enacted enabling legislation required by the Federal Golden Nematode Act. The compensating payment to growers is shared jointly half and half by the State of New York and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Although widely favored by Long Island potato growers, the regulations and agreements to participate are not obligatory.

Granary housekeeping

The Advisory Committee on Grain Sanitation works with USDA and the Food and Drug Administration in efforts to combat the insects and other pests of stored cereals. The heads of the active committees are: Education, W. H. Bowman, Millers' National Federation, Chicago; rodent control, Dr. Harold Macy, Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul; insect control, Dr. R. C. Smith, Kansas State College, Manhattan.

Deficit milk areas

Problems of economic adjustments in the dairy industry to serve areas of sparse production is a line project in marketing and transportation research now underway. Bureau of Agricultural Economics staff members will tackle a series of studies to determine the extent, conditions, and methods by which distribution areas are being expanded in the West. The Western Regional Technical Committee for Dairy Marketing Research will cooperate. It is a field in which too little is known, although the Utah and Montana Experiment Stations have gathered some data on the subject.

Tobacco study pool

The Production and Marketing Administration has organized a coordinated research program known as the tobacco research pool. State research offices in 6 States are cooperating. In addition, Duke University, the University of Louisville, and 12 tobacco companies are making contributions to the effort. The work is conducted under the authority of the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, and the Standards and Technical Research Division of the Tobacco Branch of PMA is the general supervisory agency. The plan is to get data on chemical composition and physical properties of U. S. grades chosen to represent a cross section of the different types and crops of American leaf. The findings will be correlated with the various elements of quality now used in the Federal grade specifications. The idea is to work out a more scientific basis for the establishment of official standard grades.

REA reorganization

The reorganization of Rural Electrification Administration provides for the separation of the electric and telephone programs under two assistant administrators. The assistant administrators are Roy G. Zook for the electric program, and J. K. O'Shaughnessy for the telephone program. Relations with all electrification borrowers will be handled through two new Regions—the Northern and the Southern. Wade M. Edmunds is chief of the former region, and William H. Callaway heads the latter region. Each region is further divided into area offices, and these in turn into Operations, Engineering, and Accounting Sections. Area directors are: Northeast, Ralph J. Foreman; North Central, Osborne W. Briden; Western, Chris L. Schultz; Southeast, John H. Scoltock; and Southwest, Reginald E. Cole. J. B. McCurley is chief of the Electric Operations Division, while the Electric Engineering Division is headed by Joseph O'Brien.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR OCTOBER 7, 1953

For Superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Agricultural Research Center: MRS. MYRTLE P. DONALDSON, Fiscal Accounting Clerk, Beltsville, Md.

Bureau of Agricultural Economics: RAYMOND R. ALFORD, Jr., Miscellaneous Duplicating Equipment Operator, Raleigh, N. C.; MARION E. BAILEY, Statistical Assistant, Washington, D. C.; RICHARD J. FOOTE, Supervisory Analytical Statistician, Washington, D. C.; VERA GENZ, Budget and Fiscal Assistant, Washington, D. C.; HAROLD R. WALKER, Supervisory Analytical Statistician, Washington, D. C.

Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry: HELEN I. WRIGHT, Clerk, Peoria, Ill.; PATRICIA M. COONEY, Chemist, Peoria, Ill.; JULIAN CORMAN, Chemist, Peoria, Ill.

Farmers Home Administration: JOSEPH J. ROSACKER, Farm Management Supervisor, Ottawa, Kans.

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine: WILLARD A. ALGREN, Fiscal Accounting Clerk, Minneapolis, Minn.; WILLIAM F. MCCAMBRIDGE, Entomologist, Portland, Oreg.

Forest Service: GUERDON L. DIMMICK, Forester, Milwaukee, Wis.; JOSEPH J. BARRY, District Ranger, Ava, Mo.; STANLEY A. JOHNSON, General Supply Clerk, Milwaukee, Wis.; KURT K. KOEHLER, Fiscal Accountant, Milwaukee, Wis.; RICHARD D. LANE, Forester, Carbondale, Ill.

Production And Marketing Administration: ALLEN D. CHEESBROUGH, Administrative Assistant, Casper, Wyo.; ADOLPH J. FISCHENICH, Freight Traffic Assistant, Chicago, Ill.; LOUIS GALLUZZI, Accounting Clerk, Chicago, Ill.; MARY H. GRAY, Clerk, Chicago, Ill.; MARIE A. HIGGINS, Time, Leave, and Payroll Supervisor, Chicago, Ill.; MRS. FLORENCE A. LEE, Clerk-Stenographer, Kansas City, Mo.; LENEITA E. LLEWELLYN, Secretary, Washington, D. C.; MRS. ANNA C. OLIVER, Clerk-Stenographer, Kansas City, Mo.; WILLIAM O. SHOFNER, Agricultural Economist, Washington, D. C.; LEE D. SINCLAIR, Livestock Marketing Specialist, Washington, D. C.; MAXINE M. YEAGER, Clerk-Typist, Washington, D. C.

Rural Electrification Administration: KATHRYN V. ALLEN, Secretary, Washington, D. C.; ANN M. PARROTT, Secretary, Washington, D. C.

Soil Conservation Service: E. WILLIAM ANDERSON, Range Conservationist, Pendleton, Oreg.; ADELE L. BUSH, Appointment Clerk, Albuquerque, N. Mex.; MAX B. CLARK, Soil Conservation Aid, Upper Darby, Pa.; FRANK W. GURGURICK, Soil Conservationist, Silverton, Oreg.; RICHARD A. KING, Engineering Aid, Maupin, Oreg.; ROBERT E. KROHN, Administrative Assistant, Portland, Oreg.; HUBERT J. OLIVER, Engineering Aid, Klamath Falls, Oreg.; GEORGE E. OTTE, Soil Scientist, The Dalles, Oreg.; LYLE C. SMITH, Civil Engineer, Klamath Falls, Oreg.; WILBUR E. TERNYIK, Soil Conservation Aid, Florence, Oreg.; JOSEPH S. WESTVOLD, Engineering Aid, Klamath Falls, Oreg.

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Employee awards

CASH AWARDS for suggestions, for cases in excess of $100, authorized by Public Law 600, are listed thus:

Bureau of Animal Industry: G. AIME FORTIER, Jeanerette, La., $150.

Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering: MYRON STOUT, Salt Lake City, Utah, $135.

Production and Marketing Administration: JOHN H. COMFORD, Minneapolis, Minn., $235; AUBREY L. FLIPPEN, and JOHN B. VANCE, Richmond, Va.; $150; HOUSTON O. GILLESPIE, Nashville, Tenn., $280; JOSEPH A. JONES, Montgomery, Ala., $280; LESTER LORD, New York, N. Y., $110; HERMAN N. MINDLIN and GEORGE R. SHADWICK, Dallas, Tex., $125.

Soil Conservation Service: RALPH E. KENNARD, Washington, D. C., $160.

Cash awards for efficiency under Public Law 429 are as follows:

Forest Service: ROBERT W. APPLEBY, Corvallis, Oreg., $300; LOWELL W. ASH, Portland, Oreg., $120; ARTHUR H. MASE and GEORGE H. HIGGINS, Missoula, Mont., $110.

Production and Marketing Administration: ALBERT LUBORE, Washington, D. C., $100; THOMAS SMART, Washington, D. C., $500.

New York courses

Special training for Federal personnel is the objective of the 7 weeks courses sponsored at New York University by the Federal Personnel Council and the USDA Graduate School. It is similar to the program developed last season with Boston University for Federal workers in that area.

PMA awards program

The employee awards program in the Production and Marketing Administration has been making good progress. Charles M. Cox, chairman of the PMA Central Efficiency Awards Committee, reports that since July 1, 1947, more than 2,000 ideas have been offered as suggestions by PMA employees and 27 percent have been found worthy of adoption. The estimated savings on a conservative basis derived from these ideas total nearly $900,000. Such improvements in work methods, according to Mr. Cox, are like a chain reaction leading to further betterment of the service.

Oats notes

COOPERATIVE NURSERIES established for the widespread testing of old and new oat varieties have been operated for nearly 30 years by the Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases at the Plant Industry Station, and by numerous plant breeders and agronomists at almost all of the State agricultural experiment stations.

In 1952 H. A. Rodenhiser succeeded K. S. Quisenberry, now Assistant Chief of the Bureau, as head of the CC&D Division. Now associated in this work for USDA are H. C. Murphy, Franklin A. Coffman, and Harland Stevens. Another worker who contributed zealously to oat testing programs—Conley V. Lowther—died during the past year.

Only five stations in as many States were included at the time that the cooperative coordinated oat breeding nursery program began in 1924 under the direction of Mr. Coffman. Since then the whole program has been expanded to reach the present 116 stations located in 44 States and Alaska.

New plans adopted for 1953 call for a division of the country into five rather than four regions, and for the growing of three general nurseries in the northern area of the United States. These are called the northeastern, north central and northwestern nurseries. The midseason and early maturing nurseries will be combined in the north region, while the irrigated and dryland nurseries will be combined in the northwestern region.

Special studies in disease resistance are deemed especially vital to oat culture everywhere owing to recent widespread epidemics of rust races and other fungous plant enemies. To combine both high yield and high disease resistance are objectives sought. Such disease resistance breeding of promising selections takes place now at State experiment stations located at Ames, Iowa; St. Paul, Minn.; Madison, Wis.; Columbia, Mo.; Manhattan, Kans.; Gainesville, Fla.; Statesville, N. C.; and the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md.

Individual farms lead

From the 1950 Census of Agriculture, it has been determined by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, that 1,017.3 million acres, or 88 percent of all the farm land in this country, is owned by individuals. This refers to farmland owned by one or more persons, as husband and wife, partnerships, undivided interests or estates, and life estates. Corporations owned 51 million acres, or 4.4 percent. Public lands and lands owned by Indians make up the balance of 7.6 percent. A story in BAE's *Agricultural Situation* for September gives further details including estimates of who owns the 727 million acres not in farms.

Photogenic insects

BEHIND ILLUSTRATIONS in a recent Department technical bulletin on May beetles lies a story of many months of experimentation. May beetles and their larvae, white grubs, during some years destroy crops and trees in this country worth millions of dollars. The different species—of which there are some 130—are distinguishable only by minute physical differences. Entomologists need to know what species are involved in order to forewarn farmers of their probable appearance and to advise necessary control measures.

About 1935, J. G. Pratt, photographer with BEPQ from 1912 to 1943, noted that technical publications on May beetles usually were illustrated by line drawings of the terminal portions of the abdomen, which marked the differences between the species. For 50 years, he was assured, entomologists had been trying to make suitable photographs of these parts, but because the portions of the abdomen needed for diagnostic purposes are microscopic in size and of dark brown chitin, the task was considered nearly impossible. Pratt decided to prove the job could be done. After 2 months of patient trial and error, working on Sundays, in spare time, and after hours, he found that thinned-down cream-colored oil paint when applied to the tiny segments turned them from dark brown to a brilliant cream, without clogging the characters, and made them "as easy to photograph as a house."

Then came the second drawback. A microscope gives little depth of focus, so that a photograph taken through it at the required magnification would not register the detail needed for accurate identification. Pratt spent another 6 months completely rebuilding a microscope so that he could photograph specimens without distortion. He then invented a device to aline specimens quickly before the microscope lens in any desired position, as the terminal portion of the abdomen must be photographed from five different angles. The clear photographs he thus made of May beetles appear in USDA Technical Bulletin 1060, May Beetles of the United States and Canada, by Philip Luginbill, Sr., and Henry R. Painter, issued March 1953.

Pratt also invented a new kind of illumination for translucent microscopic forms such as mosquito larvae that made it possible to photograph them as living animals. Previously, such objects could not be photographed because reflected light made little impression of the translucent object on the ground glass, and light transmitted through the specimen gave merely a silhouette or skeleton. As all microscopic animal life found in the water is translucent, his discovery opened up the entire field of fresh-water zoology to photography. Mr. Pratt, now retired, lives at Silver Spring, Md.

Cotton economies

WEED CONTROL in cotton brought out stimulating herbicidal talk at the 1953 Southern Weed Conference at New Orleans, La. Taking part were scientists from the Department, agricultural colleges and experiment stations of the Cotton States, commercial cotton-breeding concerns, and, of course, individual cotton growers.

Commenting on weeds as a source of quality–lowering trash in cotton, especially since mechanical harvesting has has increased. Dr. Roy L. Lovvorn said farmers could make the most of chemical herbicides such as dinitro compounds, 3-chloro IPC, CMU for pre-emergence and aromatic oils for post-emergence use if they would recognize it as a precision job because of the danger that herbicides may damage cotton. "Last year," said Lovvorn, "at least 300,000 acres of cotton was weeded with herbicides, mostly in the Mississippi Delta."

O. B. Wooten, Jr., agricultural engineer at the Delta Branch Experiment Station, Stoneville, Miss., appearing on a Cotton Council broadcast with Dr. Lovvorn, said that in order to make possible effective application of herbicides by machines the farmer must do his part from preparation of a good seedbed free of lumps to having the machine in good running order.

A cotton seed grower from South Carolina reported some on–the–farm results of tests on a 25–acre plot showing a striking difference between a thoroughly mechanized job including chemicals, flame cultivation, mechanical pickers, and what he called a "partial mechanization basis." The cost for the former was 24 cents a pound and for the latter 33 cents—"a net saving of $40 an acre."

New top assignments

With the resignation of Romeo E. Short, his place as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in charge of the Foreign Agricultural Service goes to Assistant Secretary John H. Davis, while the post as director of Commodity Marketing and Adjustment is now held by Howard H. Gordon, who becomes President of the CCC. Mr. Gordon continues as PMA Administrator. These changes were announced by Secretary Benson on September 28.

Negro extension aided

CREATION OF the position of national leader for agricultural extension work with Negro farm families and the naming of John W. Mitchell, Extension Service field agent, Hampton, Va., to fill the post was announced in September by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson.

The new position puts Negro Extension leadership in the Department in Washington and is a first step, says Extension Director C. M. Ferguson, in a long range program of further developing and strengthening farm and home demonstration work with Negro farm families and 4–H youths.

Mr. Mitchell, who began work for the Extension Service 36 years ago as an emergency farm agent in two North Carolina counties, assumed his new duties here on September 15. He is an Extension career employee, who has worked his way up through the ranks since 1917. He served as emergency agent, county agent, district agent, and State leader of Negro work in North Carolina. From the latter post, he joined the Federal staff in 1943 as a field agent, succeeding the late John B. Pierce.

He received a number of awards for his work as an agent and as a supervisor. Last year the Department presented him a superior service award "for his contribution to the development of effective and practical Extension work with Negro farm families."

Mr. Mitchell was born in Morehead City, N. C., and is a graduate of Agricultural and Technical College, Greensboro, N. C. Also, he holds a master's degree from Central University, Indianapolis, Ind., and an honorary doctorate from Livingstone College, Salisbury, N. C. The national extension leader is married and has six grown children.

A word from Burch

Writing to the Office of Information in April, Dallas Burch, former information officer for the Bureau of Animal Industry, says: "The Department and the Extension Service are doing a lot of good in this Santa Clara Valley, through publications and many kinds of demonstrations. Your press material receives a good play in newspapers here." Mr. Burch is at 900 Covington Road, Los Altos, Calif.

Yearbook for 1953

"Plant Diseases" is the title of the USDA 1953 Yearbook of Agriculture. The 147 articles it contains in its 992 pages were written by specialists in the Department, the State agricultural experiment stations, and universities. It is produced as a Congressional document. Its main distribution is by members of the Senate and the House. Copies are also for sale at $2.50 by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office. The Department has no copies for sale or general distribution.

Unity in research

REGIONAL RESEARCH undertaken by two or more State agricultural experiment stations is aimed directly at solving broad common problems that concern the farmers in the States involved. Section 9 of the Bankhead–Jones Act authorizes allotments of Federal funds for that specific purpose. In working out the procedures for such regional studies, the directors of the State agricultural experiment stations and the Office of Experiment Stations in USDA have developed a regular pattern for planning and operating so as to make the most effective use of the funds supplied by Congress.

Regional research funds provided in the Bankhead–Jones Act may be used only for cooperative regional projects that have been recommended by a committee of nine persons named by and representing the directors of the State agricultural experiment stations. Such projects must also be submitted to and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture or his authorized agents.

Any travel expense incurred by the working committee of nine may be paid out of the regional research funds. Not less than 20 percent of these funds may be used for conducting marketing research. No needless duplication is allowed to ocur in regional research, and written agreements between the Secretary of Agriculture and the cooperating agencies are required by law. Research agencies of the Department participate extensively in this cooperative research program.

For readers who are intensely interested in all details that make up the operating pattern established to govern these regional research projects, there is a newly revised manual of procedures now available. Write to Office of Experiment Stations, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Death of Dr. Moskey

Dr. Henry E. Moskey, 61, veterinary medical director of the Food and Drug Administration, died August 24. He was a native of Maryland and had a V. N. D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He entered Federal service as a messenger in the Bureau of Animal Industry in 1911 and up to 1927 he served as a veterinarian in the Bureau, specializing in the eradication of livestock diseases in Texas and California. Dr. C. W. Crawford, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, paid a memorial tribute to the excellent service Dr. Moskey rendered, especially in court trials of worthless nostrums offered to the public in the treatment of livestock diseases.

GOOD FIELD ITEMS ALWAYS WELCOME

Readers' reminders

Does this break the law?

A 65–page processed circular was issued early this year by the Solicitor's Office that gives in convenient form the provisions of Federal laws affecting employees and others in connection with programs administered by USDA. The statutes referred to in the text are published in full as an appendix. *USDA* editor has no copies for you.

Fiber facts

More than 400 million pounds of natural fibers and about 1 million pounds of synthetic fibers were used in making cordage products in 1951. The leading fibers thus used are sisalana, cotton, and abaca. More than 4 pounds in every 10 pounds of fibers go into farm ropes. A marketing act study directed by Rita Hausknecht and Ben L. Owens, BAE, has been published, entitled "Fibers." While they last, copies are available from BAE's Information Division.

Ips beetles

U. S. Forest Service reports that infestations by ips beetles exacts a heavy toll on pine timber, being most severe in northern Florida and southern Georgia. In 1951 it was estimated that 126 million board feet of pine were killed by ips beetles in the Southern Region of FS. Further control studies to combat the pest are under way.

Southern chick hatcheries

Issued as the 34th in the series of southern cooperative bulletins, Commercial Hatchery Production in Six Southern States represents cooperative studies done under the Agricultural Research and Marketing Act and with some individual State funds. Readers outside of the six Southern States involved may, instead of asking their own State colleges for copies, obtain them from the Agricultural Experiment Station, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala.

Free for the asking

Soil Conservation Service has a few hundred spare copies left of two circulars. One is by Frank Edminster, regional biologist, Blacksburg, Va., and Richard May, soil conservationist, Upper Darby, Pa. It is Shrub Plantings for Soil Conservation and Wildlife Cover. The other one is Stubble Mulch Farming on Wheatlands of the Southern High Plains, by Wendell Johnson, SCS conservationist. Call or write the Information Division of SCS at Washington, D. C.

Principles, wisdom, hope

"The present farm programs do not help the farmer earn too much income. He earns too little. Neither do I believe that the present programs give our farmers too much security. They give him too little." We quote that from an address by Secretary Benson before the Darlington County Agricultural Society, Mineral Springs, S. C. Copies may be had from *USDA* Editor by asking for No. 2131.

Dividing lunch funds

More than 80 percent of the $83,365,000 provided for this year's national school lunch program has been apportioned among the 48 States, the District of Columbia, and 5 territories and possessions of the United States. Guam gets its share this year for the first time. The money is allocated to the States on a matching basis of $1.50 for every $1 if the State income equals and exceeds United States per capita income. The list of allocations may be had by asking *USDA* Editor for No. 2612.

Better co-op periodicals

Where to go for news, what to tell readers and how to tell it, making reading easy, and which form of duplication to use are among the brief hints given to persons in charge of membership periodicals in Farm Credit Administration's Miscellaneous Report 174, Making Your Membership Publication Do the Job. Originally prepared several years ago, this latest issue was revised and partly rewritten by W. Gifford Hoag and Marie Puhr, FCA's Information and Extension Service.

Photographic sales

Uniform policies and procedures relating to Department sales of photographic and mosaic reproductions, except library materials, are in charge of a special working committee, with S. L. Gardiner of Plant and Operations as chairman. Other members are R. H. Moyer, PMA; G. J. Leahy, SCS; J. R. McDermott, FS; D. F. Myers, B&F; G. C. Pace, Extension; R. R. Shaw, Library; and Gladwin Young, Office of the Secretary.

Brief and choice

Carpenter—Mainland

Mrs. Rowena S. Carpenter, home economist in the Poultry Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration, was married to Leslie J. Mainland of Rock Island, Ill., on August 21 at Jefferson City, Mo. Mr. and Mrs. Mainland will be at home at 243 North Highland Street, Arlington, Va.

Renaud to radio and TV

Jules Renaud, who has been with Soil Conservation Service for 15 years, has joined USDA's radio and television service. Before taking an information assignment in the regional SCS office at Albuquerque, N. Mex., Mr. Renaud worked as a forester and district conservationist in Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado.

Lovvorn leaves

Roy L. Lovvorn, who has been head of the Division of Weed Investigations at the Plant Industry Station for a few years has resigned. Dr. Lovvorn will be director of instruction for North Carolina State College, Raleigh, N. C.

Book mail rate for visuals

Under new legislation, films and similar visual materials for educational use can now be sent through the United States mails at the regular book rate. Colleges and universities are among the agencies on the eligible list to use the book rate for visual materials. Local postmasters have all the information you will need on this matter.

Plant Industry librarian

Employees of the Agricultural Research Center now use the branch library located on the third floor of the Administration Building at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Miss Signe Rhu Ottersen, formerly with the USDA branch library in San Francisco, is in charge. She received her first library training in her native State of Wisconsin.

Fair exhibits

Emphasis in the USDA Exhibits Service of the Office of Information this year will be placed upon working with Land–Grant Colleges in preparing localized exhibits. With limited funds available this year, the program of sending out large fair displays has been discontinued for the present. Instead of fairs and expositions, the activity will center upon suggestions and aids for State extension educational materials.

Goat brucellosis

State livestock sanitary officials send reports on the testing of goats for brucellosis to the Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Eradication Division, Bureau of Animal Industry. In fiscal year 1953 the assembled State reports showed 2,481 herds with 17,256 goats tested for brucellosis. Only 17 reactors were found and 89 suspected animals. This 0.1 percent infection of reactors in goats compares with 2.2 percent for swine and something under 3.4 percent for cattle.

Ohio woman aids McLeaish

R. B. McLeaish, Administrator of the Farmers Home Administration, has appointed Mrs. Lottie Randolph, Columbus, Ohio, to be one of his assistants. Mrs. Randolph has had broad experience in agricultural and public affairs. She was assistant director of agriculture for Ohio at two separate times. She was secretary of the Central States Division of Marketing Officials, and for 25 years has been a leader of group discussions for the Ohio State Agricultural Extension Service.

Agricultural meteorologist

James N. Beall has been appointed agricultural meteorologist, the first one to hold this position since 1940, when the Weather Bureau left the Department. Greater practical service to the Department and farmers is planned by the Weather Bureau. Mr. Beall is a graduate of the Idaho College of Agriculture and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Sugarcane pilot plant

A small scale pilot plant for the continuous processing of sugarcane juice affords an excellent means of carrying out experiments that would be too costly and impractical on full factory scale. Such a plant was designed in consultation with the Department of Chemical Engineering of Louisiana State University, and installed by the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry at the Audubon sugar factory. It has given good results during the past three grinding seasons.

Charley Potter retires

The Cooperative Extension Service lost another veteran worker in the retirement of Charles E. Potter, field agent for the Northeast. He had 37 years of active service, starting out as county agent for 4–H club work in two areas of Monogalia County, W. Va., in 1915. Mr. Potter was also Montana State Club leader from 1917 through 1935. He was Federal leader of 4–H clubs in the Northeastern States until 1938. He was a second lieutenant in the Field Artillery in World War I. He taught extension supervision at various times in the field and wrote many pamphlets relating to 4–H club work and extension.

Big farms of West

In the Mountain Region of the country, farms now average 1,284 acres, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Back in 1920 the average size was 480 acres. The acreage of land in farms has more than doubled due largely to the purchase and lease of government land by ranchers. These farms of 1,000 or more acres account for 18 percent of the farms and 87 percent of the farm land.

Farm buying

BAE's *Current Developments in the Farm Real Estate Market* reported that active farmers continue to be the buyers of 65 percent of all farms changing hands, but that nonfarm investors make up a slightly higher proportion than usual, being 31 percent in recent months. A moderate decline in farm real estate values for the country as a whole has recently occurred. They were 2 percent lower in July than in March and 4 percent lower than a year ago.

Expanded research, education

"Strengthening American Agriculture through Research and Education" is the title of a statement released in August by the Office of the Secretary. It suggests wide consideration for a vigorous program of applied research in the Department and the land-grant colleges, matched by an enlarged extension program to provide expanding farm advisory services in each county to work directly on individual farm problems. Opinion of all segments of the industry and allied forces regarding such a plan are being received.

Stage goes abroad

Harry H. Stage, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, represented the Department as a delegate to the Fifth International Congress on Tropical Medicine and Malaria at Istanbul, Turkey, early in September. He addressed the assembly on modern insecticides for controlling arthropods that transmit tropical diseases. The best way yet known for controlling malaria is to spray interior building surfaces with DDT and other residual insecticides, to give months of control of the malaria mosquito. This method now used widely around the world was devised by the BEPQ laboratory group at Orlando, Fla., in 1943.

Foreign service buying

Department of State has made arrangements to have the American Foreign Service Association take over the job of assisting members of the United States foreign service in making personal purchase abroad in the line of automobiles, household equipment and other items needed at their posts. The budget situation forced the closing of the regular commissary unit, which had for years furnished catalogs, price lists, and discount offers to all employees at foreign posts. Government mailing services are no longer available for catalogs, and they must hereafter be sent direct by the companies to the foreign posts.

Major pesticides used

Only four major chemical pesticides in 11 commonly used materials had greater availability for use during the past crop year ending September 30, 1952, than during 1950 and 1951. PMA authorities list the pesticides with greater volume of use as follows: Benzine hexachloride, 92,224,000 pounds; 2,4–D, acid basis, 25,298,000 pounds; DDT, 70,074,000 pounds; and 2,4 5–T, 2,937,000 pounds. Reduced disappearance is reported for last year's crop season for calcium arsenate, lead arsenate, copper sulfate, parathion, pyrethrum flowers, rotenone–bearing roots, and ground sulfur.

Approved construction

Construction projects which had to be approved under existing law for agricultural and related industries by Office of Materials and Facilities, PMA, numbered 2,083 between July 1951 and July 1953. The total value of these approved projects amounted to over 559 million dollars. These include on-farm building projects numbering 1,255 with an estimated total value of more than 25 million dollars. Grain and food and fiber processing projects were next in numbers, but the value of the 687 food and fiber projects alone amounted to the most among all itemized categories on which approval was granted, or more than 454 million dollars.

Plant food expansion

EXPANDED CAPACITY for fertilizer production was called for 2 years ago and details of this program were assigned to the Office of Materials and Facilities, Production and Marketing Administration. The goal set for this expanded capacity by 1955 called for the production of 2,185,000 tons of nitrogen (N), 3,550,000 tons of available phosphoric oxide (P_2O_5), and 2,185,000 tons of potash (K_2O).

It is reported that by June 1953, the capacity of new nitrogen facilities which was completed in 1951 and 1952 and scheduled for completion in 1953 represented about 50 percent of the planned expansion goal. The phosphate expansion project was behind schedule in June 1953. Construction of additional facilities in various stages of completion had reached about 50 percent of the desired expansion, while the potash expansion goal calling for added capacity of 600,000 annual tons of potash by 1955 had been fully attained at the end of last June.

Along with this assignment, OMF gave basic assistance to industrial representatives with respect to several plant projects in the numerous fertilizer expansion movements. While the controlled materials order was in effect, OMF workers rendered direct aid to fertilizer firms in obtaining sufficient steel and other materials and in the solution of current transportation problems.

Cottonseed cleaner-mixer

As cottonseed samples are now mixed and hand-cleaned in separate operations, a machine which would do both in one operation would save time and cost. A patent for a paddle-type cleaner-mixer has been applied for by the USDA Cotton Laboratory, Stoneville, Miss.

Tomato color studies

Research in the field on the objective measurement of tomato color at canning plants is being conducted by Donald E. Wilson, Research and Statistics Division, Fruit and Vegetable Branch of PMA, and George B. Dever, Fresh Products Standardization and Inspection Division. This fall the work has been done in western New York, previous to which considerable study was carried out at a processing plant in Wyoming, Delaware.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR OCTOBER 21, 1953

Cordial relations

WITHIN 10 working days after he took office, Secretary Ezra Taft Benson had started a get-acquainted hand-shaking project with the Washington area employees that lasted through 21 sessions with 19 bureaus and agencies and concluded on September 2. Almost invariably standing in the receiving line with Secretary Benson were Under Secretary True D. Morse, Assistant Secretaries J. Earl Coke, John H. Davis, and Romeo E. Short, also Solicitor Karl Loos as well as Daken K. Broadhead, since resigned as Administrative Assistant to the Secretary. Supervisors and administrators of the respective employee groups were likewise present to do the honors.

Between 6,000 and 7,000 persons received the "hand of fellowship" during the entire series. Originally, Secretary Benson had planned to greet the employees at some central place in each agency as they arrived for duty in the morning. Through no fault of his, however, it did not work out that way, and hence the Secretary's receiving line formed at about 8:30 a. m. and usually lasted until the work starting hour or beyond.

IFYE'S returning

November 10 is the scheduled returning date for about 80 international Farm Youth Exchangees, who have been in Europe and the Middle East during the summer. They will spend two days in Washington to discuss their mutual experiences. Total overseas IFYE delegates number about 92.

Fewer world conferences

Congress has appropriated a third less funds for participation in international conferences for fiscal 1954 than for 1953, according to notices issued by the Department of State to various departments. Under Secretary Morse has notified all USDA agencies that in line with this situation each agency will be expected to confine personnel participation to those conferences that are essential to agriculture and to curtail the number of official delegates to a minimum.

Point of law

NEW LEAVE law says that lump sum payments are limited to 30 days, or the amount carried over to the leave year in which an employee becomes separated, whichever is greater.

A question arises as to whether an employee could be paid at all for leave earned in the leave year in which separated but not used by the last day of active duty. The Comptroller General has recently ruled that agencies can grant terminal leave for such unused leave but they are not compelled to do so. In granting terminal leave the agency carries the employee on the rolls beyond his last day of active duty for the period necessary to cover the leave.

An example will make clear the effect of the law and decisions of the Comptroller General. Assume an employee carries over 60 days of annual leave to the 1954 leave year. He earns 15 days leave from January 3 to July 31, 1954. His last day of active duty is July 31, by which date he has used only 5 of the 15 days earned. His lump sum leave payment may be for not more than 60 days. However under the recent decision the agency may, at its discretion and on his request, carry him on terminal leave to cover the other 10 days. Also under a previous decision the agency may on his request carry him on terminal leave for the 60 days or give him a lump sum payment whichever it desires.

Fighting wheat rust

According to USDA cereal authorities, not a single commercial wheat now grown in the Western Hemisphere carries resistance to Race 15 B, one of the most virulent stem rust races ever found in North America. To overcome this lack, cooperative studies are being conducted from Canada to Argentina to get sources of resistance located and try to incorporate these resistant genes into superior new varieties. Reports on wheat performance when subjected to infection from Race 15 B are now being received from 31 locations around the globe.

Right way to confer

BENCH MARKS for a successful work conference were issued last winter by George M. Beal and Ray E. Wakeley of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa. It was issued as part of a special project to refresh the minds of folks who are entrusted with the mapping out of arrangements for some of our frequent winter work conferences.

A Good Work Conference is concerned with the problems of the participants; NOT the problems of the *leaders*.

A Good Work Conference is one to which delegates come prepared with an understanding of the type of meeting which they are going to attend.

A Good Work Conference selects a corps of assistants which act as a service team to help conference groups reach high productivity.

A Good Work Conference trains a corps of assistants before the conference begins, to act as a service team to the delegates—(resource persons, integrators, group observers, content recorders, listening teams, and discussion leaders).

A Good Work Conference takes the time before it plunges into technical discussion to review its purposes and major themes; how it will operate; and what major decisions it will try to make.

A Good Work Conference breaks down into small groups which are continually kept informed of what is going on in each group.

A Good Work Conference uses democratic group discussion leaders who are concerned LESS with getting THEIR POINTS of VIEW across, and more with bringing out into the open the points of view of the participants.

A Good Work Conference takes time as it goes along to look at itself and to improve its own procedures of working together. The group process observer should play an important function in this evaluation.

A Good Work Conference is one in which its final session commits itself publicly to carry back home the decisions made at the conference.

Roberts heads fair employment

Ralph S. Roberts, Administrative Assistant Secretary, has been designated as the fair employment officer for the Department. He will insure that there shall be no discrimination because of race, color, religion, or national origin in handling recruitment or promotion.

OPEDA observance

In 1954 the Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture (OPEDA) will observe its twenty-fifth anniversary. Fully two-thirds of the present active membership work in field offices of the Department.

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New Reorganization Plan Announced

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson announced October 13 a proposed comprehensive reorganization of the U. S. Department of Agriculture designed for better service to farmers through placing operations of the Department on a more business-like, efficient and decentralized basis.

The reorganization proposal is made under authority of Reorganization Plan No. 2, enacted by the last session of Congress. That plan calls for advance notice of intention to reorganize. The proposal is scheduled to become effective after there has been opportunity for interested parties to comment on it. Suggestions should be submitted prior to November 1. The proposals have been made after consultation with Congressional agricultural leaders, the National Agricultural Advisory Commission, representatives of the Land Grant Colleges, representatives of the President's Committee on reorganization of the Government, farm organization leaders, and others.

The new Department organization puts all of the service agencies of the Department under four main groups: (1) Federal-States Relations; (2) Marketing and Foreign Agriculture; (3) Agricultural Stabilization; and (4) Agricultural Credit. The four groups, the present Administrative Services group and the Solicitor will report administratively to the Secretary.

"This reorganization streamlines the Department for better service to farm families and for simplified internal organization," Secretary Benson said.

"The Department of Agriculture as reorganized is designed to meet present day conditions, particularly in its emphasis on marketing. We propose to continue and to use the community, county, and State farmer committees which have administered many phases of conservation and price support programs. These committees will be a part of the Agricultural Stabilization group and will have important responsibilities both in the agricultural conservation program and in the various commodity programs such as marketing quotas and price supports.

"The reorganization has been decided upon after the most careful study. It will be made effective without interrupting the vital services of the Department. It will give to the hard-working employees of the Department an opportunity to make their work even more effective than it has been. Our ultimate goal is greater decentralization to bring the programs closer to farmers."

Among major changes in the Department's structure the reorganization proposal would:

Regroup the various research bureaus in the present Agricultural Research Administration into an integrated Agricultural Research Service.

Establish an Agricultural Marketing Service which will absorb a major part of the marketing, research and service functions of the Production and Marketing Administration and many of the functions of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Establish a Commodity Stabilization Service which will carry on adjustment and other functions formerly handled by the Production and Marketing Administration, such as acreage allotments and marketing quotas, and carry on price support operations of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Retain the present community, county, and State farmer committees to carry out the programs of the Commodity Stabilization Service and the Agricultural Conservation Program in the field.

Transfer the functions of the Production and Marketing Administration and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to other services.

Strengthen State Soil Conservation offices and eliminate Regional SCS offices.

Other than the integration of the former ARA research bureaus and the transfer of functions of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Production and Marketing Administration, most of the other existing agencies of the Department retain their major functions, although there have been numerous changes in nomenclature and concentration of related but widely dispersed work.

In view of the fact that the Farm Credit Administration will become an independent agency on December 5, as provided by legislation passed by the last Congress, it is not affected by this reorganization.

The proposals do not reflect recommendations just received from the Agricultural Information Advisory Committee concerning the information work of the Department. However, these recommendations will be considered in connection with the final plans for reorganization.

Emphasizing the "service" goal of the reorganization, a number of agencies have been designated as "Services." A number of Department agencies such as the Forest Service already have this designation.

The following are the four main groups provided for by the reorganization and the agencies which would be in each:

FEDERAL-STATES RELATIONS: Agencies in this group would include: Agricultural Research Service, Forest Service, Federal Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Conservation Program Service, and Cooperative Service.

MARKETING AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE: Agencies in this group would be the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Foreign Agricultural Service.

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION: Agencies in this group would be Commodity Stabilization Service (including the administration of Commodity Credit Corporation programs), Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and community, county, and State committees.

FEDERAL–STATES RELATIONS

Agricultural Research Service.—It is proposed that this Service conduct all of the production and utilization research of the Department (except forestry research) and the inspection, disease and pest control and eradication work closely associated with this research. The Administrator of this Service would also be responsible for the coordination of all research of the Department.

Under the proposal the research, inspection, disease and pest control work now in the bureaus of the Agricultural Research Administration would be reorganized and regrouped. The aim is to gather together the research and the regulatory work from scattered locations within the present Agricultural Research Administration and thus provide two main activities with clear lines of authority—the research work in one group and the inspection and control work in another.

Related research activities would be moved from other agencies into this Service as follows:

(1) The farm management and land use research from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

(2) The soil conservation research from the Soil Conservation Service.

(3) Certain grass and range management research from the Forest Service.

(4) Cotton ginning and processing research from the Production and Marketing Administration.

(5) The administration of the Insecticide Act and the poultry meat inspection work from the Production and Marketing Administration.

(6) Research development work from the Technical Collaboration Branch of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Forest Service.—This Service would continue to be responsible for promoting the conservation and best use of the Nation's forest resources.

The following activities would be transferred to this Service:

(1) The management of publicly owned lands administered under Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act from the Soil Conservation Service.

(2) The forest disease and pest research and control work from the Agricultural Research Administration.

Soil Conservation Service.—The Soil Conservation Service would continue as the Department's technical service agency in the field of soil and water conservation and flood prevention. As such it will aid in bringing about physical adjustments in land use and in use of water to conserve natural resources and reduce the hazards of floods and sedimentation. The State offices of the Soil Conservation Service would be given greater responsibility for program formulation and execution by discontinuing the Regional Offices and transferring the functions principally to the State offices.

Federal Extension Service.—The Federal Extension Service would continue to have the leadership for all general educational programs. This Service would act as the liaison between the Department and the Land-Grant Colleges' Agricultural Extension Service.

All work of the Technical Collaboration Branch of the Foreign Agricultural Service other than that relating to research would be transferred to this Service.

Agricultural Conservation Program Service.—Not affected by this reorganization, except for change in name.

Cooperative Research and Service Division.—This Division, transferred from the Farm Credit Administration by Public Law 202, 83d Congress, would be placed in the Federal-States Relations group. The Division would carry on analysis and service activities with farmer cooperatives.

MARKETING AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service.—The marketing and distribution functions of the Department would be centralized in this Service. This includes marketing research and related statistical and economic research; marketing services, including crop and livestock estimates, market news, standardization, grading, inspection and classification of farm products; and marketing and regulatory acts, including marketing agreements and orders. The Administrator of this Service would also be responsible for the coordination of all statistical work of the Department.

The following activities would be transferred to this Service from other agencies:

(1) All research, analytical and statistical work, including crop and livestock estimates, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, except the farm management and land use research transferred to the Agricultural Research Service.

(2) The off-farm handling, transportation and storage research activities from the Agricultural Research Administration.

(3) The marketing research and marketing services work from the Production and Marketing Administration.

(4) The administration of marketing and regulatory acts, including marketing agreements and orders from the Production and Marketing Administration.

(5) Work relating to food distribution, including the school lunch program, administration of Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1935, and food trade activities from the Production and Marketing Administration.

(6) The Commodity Exchange Authority which administers the Commodity Exchange Act would be placed in this Service.

Foreign Agricultural Service.—This Service would have primary responsibility for matters pertaining to agricultural trade and relationships with foreign areas. Certain functions relating to import controls under Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act and import control under the Defense Production Act would be transferred to this Service.

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION

Commodity Stabilization Service.—This Service would be responsible for adjustment activities including acreage allotments and marketing quotas, the stabilization of sugar production, price support, foreign supply programs, commodity disposal and administration of the International Wheat Agreement. Personnel and facilities of the Commodity Stabilization Service would be utilized in administration of Commodity Credit Corporation programs.

All these functions and activities would be transferred from the Production and Marketing Administration.

Community, County and State Committees.—The Community, County and State Committees (the present PMA Committees) through which the Commodity Stabilization Service activities and the Agricultural Conservation Program are carried out in the field would be placed in this group.

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation is not affected by this reorganization.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

Farmers Home Administration is not affected by this reorganization.

Rural Electrification Administration is not affected by this reorganization.

Anyone desiring to express his views regarding this proposed reorganization should communicate in writing with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., by November 1, 1953.

Brief and choice

No "poetry in soul"

Commenting on a stray reference to "straight furrows" to be followed in life's endeavor appearing in our "Said on the Side" section, an Area Conservationist at Auburn, N. Y., writes us: "Straight furrows are a thing of the past; future harvests depend on level or contour furrows which hold soil and water on the land. The straight furrow is a quick way to starvation." (Thanks, but we did not intend to become involved in mere mundane technicalities.)

Garden speakers

The National Association of Gardeners held their 39th annual convention in Washington, D. C., early in October. Among the speakers were Dr. Henry Skinner, director of the National Arboretum, and Dr. Curtis May, pathologist with the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

At Southern laboratory

The Southern Regional Research Laboratory at New Orleans was established by Congress in 1938 as one of four regional laboratories to develop new and extended uses for farm crops. The laboratory and its field stations employ more than 300 persons, representing about 75 colleges and universities in about 30 States. Many research fellows sponsored by foreign countries or by domestic industries have trained at the laboratory during the past 10 years.

Six extension fellows

Six holders of fellowships are studying in USDA, the University of Maryland, and American University under grants to outstanding extension workers made by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work and Massey-Harris Co., Racine, Wis. Extension Service has general supervision of these young students who are: Eldora Keske, Milwaukee, Wis.; Betty Pingley, 4-H club agent, Upshur county, W. Va.; Ruth Ann Seacord, associate county 4-H agent, Oneida county, N. Y.; Harold Allen, assistant extension editor, Lincoln, Nebr.; Lynn Pesson, associate county agent in St. Mary's Parish, La.; Russell Smith, county club agent, Orange County, Vt. Their year of study is directed by Mary Collings, Division of Field Studies and Training.

Wraith writers

NO ONE who has worked long in any big public agency fails to sense the important role played with modesty behind the stage scenery by that industrious handy man, who does the "haunting and the hunting" for his superior officer—otherwise known as the "ghost writer." His reserve stock of material objects may comprise the dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedia, books of golden gem quotations, files of memos and a short-cut or two to proper English usage.

But this ammunition is merely the work bench clutter, for upon his own resources, energy and ingenuity and what he can pull from the brains and experience of his associates depend his success as an ace producer of pronouncements on policy and programs. It is not likely that one can rely upon some standard work on how to be a speech writer for somebody else, because the speeches and the somebodies vary so much.

Many a humble man assigned to ghost writing of speeches has left his unknown imprints on the path of progress. He it was who invented some new catch phrase, some attractive slogan, or peculiarly timely anecdote with which an ordinary routine speech has been lifted from rubbish into renown. He it was—the diligent and unseen scribe—who gathered a few words of direction from the Chief and threaded and embroidered them into a veritable verbal tapestry ripe with brilliant color and rich with happy references.

Writing for another person to deliver has a technique all its own. It is harder to survive and explain a gross error reaching the public through the voice of another than for a writer to misinform readers himself in a printed article. Yet on the other side, many a ghost writer has saved the neck of an administrator by correcting or preventing awkward or ill-timed statements.

Like the fashion stylist, the expert ghost writer takes a plain, stiff dummy outline and clothes it with the silk of sentiment, the ribbons of rhetoric, and the accessories of action which lift it from the backroom workshop to the show-window of public relations.

N. M. field day

The thirteenth annual ranch day observance program at Las Cruces, N. Mex., was sent in by V. L. Harper, Assistant Chief of the Forest Service. The motor caravan for touring the observation points at the New Mexico A&M College and the Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station was scheduled to leave Dona Ana county court house early in the forenoon of October 12.

For Superior Work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Bureau of Agricultural Economics: O. KYLE RANDALL, Supervisory Analytical Statistician, Washington, D. C.

Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering: WALTER E. LANSING, Administrative Assistant, Riverside, Calif.

Forest Service: MARGUERITE A. ISRAELSON, Clerk, Ogden, Utah.

Production and Marketing Administration: WALTER W. HAMMEL, Audit Clerk, Washington D C.; MRS. HELEN H. MUNRO, Secretary, Washington, D. C.; LESTER O. PASKINS, Accountant, Washington, D. C.; MRS. MAE SPECKHART, Claims Examiner, Washington, D. C.

Soil Conservation Service: JACQUES AEBLI, Administrative Assistant, Richmond, Va.; ELSIE S. CRIBB, Clerk-Stenographer, Spartanburg, S. C.; GLADYS V. DONALDSON, Clerk-Stenographer, Auburn, Ala.; CHARLES B. RUSSELL, Administrative Assistant, Auburn, Ala.; J. NORMAN STONE, Administrative Assistant, Spartanburg, S. C.

Low-power farms

MAJOR AIM of a new Bureau of Agricultural Economics report is to develop facts about production conditions and facilities on small-sized family farms which will help to promote more productive uses of labor and other resources in their localities. The authors—Jackson V. McElveen and Kenneth L. Bachman—believe that better use of the resources on these low-production commercial farms would add to the total national output and improve the efficiency and returns of agriculture in general. See Agricultural Information Bulletin No. 108.

No one solution can be made to fit all these smaller farms or all such farms in any single area, it is stated. More intensive systems of farming may suit some of them, while others may find a way to enlarge their farms. Still others may do better by turning their farms into part-time enterprises and then take jobs on other nearby farms or local industries. Some may even find it best to quit farming and go to work elsewhere.

Families on these low-production farms comprise half of all the agricultural manpower on our commercial farms. Yet they have less than a fifth of the total land resources and produce about one-tenth of all the farm commodities sold. Greater efficiency in use of both labor and capital available to them is needed, but how to secure that result is not easy to define in exact terms owing to their diverse types of farming and the varying economic situations in their localities, it is explained.

About 40 percent of all commercial farms in the country are classified in the report as low-production units. The range in value in 1949 of their salable products was from $250 to $2,500 a year. In the study no farms were included where the operator worked off the farm for 100 days or the nonfarm income was greater than sales of farm commodities. The report covers almost all regions of the country to some extent, but is centralized in 10 generalized low-production areas that contain only 35 percent of the regular commercial farms as such. Production per worker there is only about half as large as that obtained on the average for our regular commercial farms.

For these small low-power farms the use of modern machinery and equipment is often out of the question at present. It is usually advisable, the report says, to enlarge the acreage, as well as to readjust and reorganize the management systems. To raise the yield from crops and livestock on these small-scale farms to that now common on medium and large commercial farms would still leave their output per family worker far below par.

As a challenge to a better way of life and greater opportunity in rural areas, this report should help to guide leaders to whom it poses a problem that we cannot afford to ignore.

Madsen succeeds Black

Dr. Louis L. Madsen, past president of the Utah Agricultural College, has been appointed head of the beef feeding, breeding and management activities in the Bureau of Animal Industry, Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md.

Outlook programs soon

The thirty-first annual USDA Outlook Conference is scheduled for October 26–30. Press, radio, and chart books will be used to spread the messages and conclusions made by speakers in this important economic conference. The chart books from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics will be sent to extension directors and editors and agricultural economists, to each county agent, to State agricultural, home economics, and 4–H club leaders, and to certain specialists in agriculture and home economics. State distribution of the Foreign Agricultural Service chart books will be limited to a smaller list. The chart book on family living will not be issued this year by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin

FOR NOVEMBER 4, 1953

Antibiotics again

EVIDENCE THAT an applied antibiotic moves through plants and will control bacterial diseases has been described by scientists of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. What is probably the first report of an effective antibiotic used as a bactericide on field-grown plants was recently given by Dr. W. J. Zaumeyer before the American Chemical Society. The effectiveness of streptomycin sulfate was compared with several commonly used fungicides for the control of halo blight, a virulent and important bacterial disease of beans in some growing areas.

The stroptomycin spray was found to be much more effective than the fungisides. When bean leaves were inoculated with halo blight 10 minutes after the antibiotic was applied to the stems, no blight occurred. An infinitesimal amount (as little as 1/300,000 of an ounce) of streptomycin on the stem of a plant was enough to protect it from halo blight. The antibiotic moves upward through the plants, but there was no evidence that it moves downward or out into the bean pods sufficient to give them immunity from infection. Dr. Zaumeyer thinks that in commercial fields which are slightly infected with halo blight the disease could be checked with one or two sprayings of streptomycin of very low concentration and moderate cost.

The good effects of several antibiotics in extending the keeping life of packed spinach are reported by Wilson L. Smith, Jr., PISAE. Spinach is subject to rapid decay known as soft rot when packed and stored at room temperatures. Refrigeration merely delays the appearance of soft rot. In Beltsville tests Dr. Smith sprayed spinach with a water solution of various antibiotics right after packaging in commercial type plastic bags. The streptomycin was found to be the most effective of these agents in reducing decay. Although this affords new encouragement in the control of decay organisms on green vegetables, the use of antibiotics in treatment of food substances has not yet received the "all clear" sign from the Food and Drug Administration.

Research score: 1 to 1,333

SOYBEAN RESEARCH offers a good example, among countless others, where State and Federal scientific research has paid astonishing returns for the funds invested by governmental bodies. Members of the National Soybean Crop Improvement Council point out some of these fantastic returns.

To date, they say, all the money spent by the States and Federal Governments on soybean research is well under $5,000,000—of which possibly $3,000,000 has been used for variety improvement. They mention the 12 varieties released for the various regional growing areas whose yields will be advanced by 8 to 10 bushels an acre with oil content up from 1 to 2 pounds per bushel. Counting 10-cent oil price and just the support price for soybeans, they claim these new varieties return $400,000,000 each year on an all-time investment of $3,000,000. This, it is pointed out, figures to a ratio of 133 to 1.

Besides this, the annual expenditures for soybean research is under $300,000 with the yearly return at least $400,000,000. In this case the investment of $1 yields $1,333. Where but in research, can money be invested with such returns as this?

Gapen in Australia

Kenneth Gapen, head of the Radio and Television Service in the Office of Information, is in Australia on an assignment with the Australian Broadcasting Commission. At the request of the Australian Government, Mr. Gapen is advising on agricultural radio programming and doing some agricultural extension work for 6-week period.

Readers can help

THE EDITOR of the employee news bulletin desires to know what the regular readers think of *USDA*. An occasional checkup on the reader-interest angle of a publication is important for good management. It is true that from time to time friendly readers have expressed themselves voluntarily in the course of correspondence with the editor, but the present need is to develop a more substantial and positive review of the attitude of employees toward this publication.

The function of *USDA* has largely been to furnish a medium for a broad approach to the achievements of the employees in bureaus and agencies, also serving to acquaint each employee within an office with the scope and variety of programs and services which make up the almost worldwide institution that the Department of Agriculture has become. Is it fulfilling that function?

By filling in the forms printed on the extra attached perforated page, we hope readers will express themselves pro or con as to the merit of *USDA*. We trust that every employee will take this opportunity to help folks in the Washington offices to more clearly and definitely ascertain the opinion of those who read *USDA* regularly. If you care to elaborate with any suggestions in a letter, we'll read and heed.

Accident report forms

Standard forms for reporting employee accidents and for processing indemnity claims under the Federal Tort Claims Act have been revised. Several improvements and revisions have been inserted. Agencies are advised to obtain adequate supplies of these amended forms through requisition on the Central Supply Section. All old forms should be destroyed and the new ones substituted.

Science seekers

A daily average of 92 farmers, technicians, foreign scientists and others interested in research visited the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville during the 1953 fiscal year. The record shows that there were 11,416 visitors during the year which is an increase of approximately 14.5 percent over the previous year showing that interest in research is increasing among people interested in agriculture. Among these visitors there were 2,872 from foreign countries who came to find out about research and for technical assistance. This was an increase of nearly 24 percent over the previous year.

These visitors to the Center, on an average, made visits to two different bureaus of research as shown by 22,944 visits to all the bureaus at the Center. Those living in the United States made 17,254 visits and those from other countries made 5,690 visits to the different bureaus. In other words the record for visitors at Beltsville shows that there were an average of 24 visits by foreign technicians and 68 visits by U. S. peoples for every work day of the year.

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Tonkin talking

EXTENSION SERVICE has an educational striking force that is strictly airborne. His name is Joseph D. Tonkin, radio and television specialist in the Division of Extension Information. He works in and out of USDA in the role of teacher and active participant in the interest of improved technique for State and USDA agricultural and home economics information.

Coauthor with Alice F. Skelsey of the Office of Information of the New Agriculture Handbook No. 55, Television for You—a Handbook for Extension Agents—Mr. Tonkin's TV experience dates back to 1944 at Station WBKB at Chicago, where he experimented visually with agricultural and food subjects when that city had but a few hundred receiving sets.

In the teaching field, Mr. Tonkin has conducted, in cooperation with State Extension editors, 168 radio schools for agricultural information in 40 States and Puerto Rico since 1947; while since 1950 he took part in 30 TV workshops or staff conferences held in 16 States. The average attendance at these schools has been 20 to 25 persons.

He has been radio and television chairman for 6 years at the National 4–H Club Congress at Chicago, and has taken part in supervising programs on the airways at the National 4–H Club Camp in Washington, D. C., as well as the Negro 4–H club camps held at various Negro land-grant colleges. Besides he has cooperated with Pennsylvania State extension specialists in reporting the famous Penn State Farm Show at Harrisburg in recent years.

In doing the schools, Mr. Tonkin separates the course into two parts. First he handles the broad approach angle, such as using simple and practical, timely and natural attitudes—the "be yourself" idea, talking informally to real people, using names and places, and showing enthusiasm and sincerity. In the second part he stresses ways to present subject matter and conduct interviews—in other words, the refinement of techniques. He dresses up the ordinary TV camera and calls it "Mabel." He teaches how to overcome stage fright and to prevent stiff, awkward, and tiresome presentations.

Last year the 4–H Club Congress had 40 TV shows, 28 network radio shows, over 100 local radio programs and about 600 tape recordings supervised or arranged for by Mr. Tonkin and the associated Federal and State Extension workers. He is preparing as this is written for a still larger airways effort this year. In view of the fact that fully 70 weekly TV shows are locally staged by State Extension personnel at present, the field is an expanding one for information.

Mr. Tonkin did his first work with USDA in radio market news service at Chicago whereupon he came to the Department headquarters in 1944 for radio work in the Office of Information. He transferred to Extension Service in 1947. His first radio work was done as radio farm program director at Station WHP, Harrisburg, Pa. Thence he went to WOWO at Fort Wayne, Ind., being associated there with the late Tom Wheeler, who taught Mr. Tonkin how to broadcast demonstrations in agricultural subjects at the experimental field days held at Purdue University.

He is a native of Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Washington and Jefferson College, did some newspaper reporting on weeklies, and served as clerk at the American Embassy, Ottawa, Canada for a year. Joe is widely known in Extension Service circles as an effective teacher and one not without a fund of robust humor to mix with the routine craftmanship of mass communications.

Health on the hoof

CLEANER HERDS have come slowly but surely because of the emphasis placed upon State-Federal sanitary cooperation. The Division of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication in the Bureau of Animal Industry has joined forces with State Departments and Commissions of Agriculture and their livestock sanitary officers over a period of about three decades to make this progress possible.

Back in 1917–18 when cooperative eradication efforts began in earnest with cattle there were between 4 and 5 percent reactors found as the national average results from tuberculin testing. For fiscal year 1953 the average was 0.11 percent reactors out of 9,675,245 cattle tested.

Blood testing for brucellosis in cooperation with the States in fiscal 1953 covered 660,344 herds with 7,860,870 cattle, with only 3.4 percent reaction found. The milk ring test was applied to 670,532 herds to determine if suspected individuals were in the herds, resulting in 175,909 herds showing positive. Meanwhile calfhood vaccination with Strain 19 *Brucella abortus vaccine* (developed by USDA) was given to 3,688,149 calves.

In the entire systematic organized brucellosis eradiation period, from July 1, 1934, through last June 30, a drop in percentages of reactors was recorded—11.5 percent in 1934 and 3.4 percent last year. Naturally considerable variation between different States exists in this regard. During that period 118,455,549 cattle were blood tested in 10,201,098 herds.

Calves vaccinated total 17,065,090 since this preventive measure was authorized officially for use in January 1941. Since the milk ring test was authorized a few years ago as a supplementary measure to the regulation blood agglutination test, it was applied to 21,631,065 cattle in 1,174,290 herds, of which 311,876 or about 27 percent, were found to be positive.

A growing body of laws and regulations for the sake of uniformity and efficiency in handling livestock diseases help make this gradual but significant progress possible, in the opinion of the authorities in charge of the work. That and the close relation existing between certain livestock diseases and those of mankind has resulted in much favorable action being taken in most of the States and Territories.

Library worker retires

After more than 30 years' service with the Library, Miss Charlotte Trolinger retired from her position as cataloger reviser on September 30. A native of Virginia, Miss Trolinger attended Goucher College and Peabody Conservatory of Music. She received a certificate from the Library School of New York Public Library in 1919. The same year she accepted her first position with the Department Library and, except for a short period in 1930–31, remained with the Library in various capacities until her retirement. Miss Trolinger and her mother plan to reside in Towson, Md.

Lewis S. "Jack" Evans dead

Lewis S. Evans, 39, known to many by his nickname "Jack," Agricultural Research Program Analyst in the Office of the Chief, Bureau of Plant Industry, died on September 12 at the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Md. He was buried in Arlington Cemetery on September 15. He is survived by his widow and two young children. Evans obtained his B. S. degree in agronomy at Kansas State College in 1936; his M. S. degree at the University of Nebraska in June, 1938; and took additional graduate work at the University of Minnesota in 1941. His first USDA appointment was that of junior agronomist, BPISAE, January 1, 1939. On September 8, 1941, he was commissioned a lieutenant colonel in the U S. Army, serving in the United States and Germany during World War II. He left the service on March 20, 1946, and rejoined BPISAE as associate agronomist, Division of Cereal Crops. Going to Jacksonville, Fla., he carried on research on the control of weeds in irrigation and drainage canals in cooperation with the U. S. Army Engineers. In 1947 he was transferred to Phoenix, Ariz., where he did similar research in cooperation with the Reclamation Service. On December 1, 1947, he became a full agronomist stationed at Beltsville to assist in the planning and coordination of research on the control of noxious weeds. In 1949 he became research program analyst in the Office of the Research Administrator, and on December 23, 1951, was promoted to the position held at the time of his passing.

Said on the side

A NATIVE of our old valley recently returned to revisit the folks and scenes of days gone by. Even the young do that sometimes. He told me later, after a vain search in all the byways of the township that the person he most wanted to find had gone away to distant climes. He said that this was the one he had relied upon most to bring him solace and renewed enthusiasm. It seems that this departed person had shared all kinds of weather and experiences with our friend. This person's insight and awareness of life had shown our friend the beauties and the wonders of the world. Not, mark you, the vast world of geographers and globe trotters or overseas specialists with TCA or FAO or whatnot. He meant instead the smaller world around us here in the valley, with its customary seasonal glories that so many take for granted and so seldom see or love. He meant impressions gained along the forest trails and meadow meanderings, the sunrise and the sunset, the sparkle of dew on the foliage, trout leaping from the lake, the wings of the eagles above, the carpet of violets below, and the song of the mocking bird in the sycamore. He said that it always took someone to see and hear those pleasant and enduring things clearly and then eagerly share them with others—or else there's not much percentage left in the sum of the day's enjoyment. Because he missed his bygone companion he tried to make up for it somehow by taking the same routes they took of old. To recapture more of that which was lost he took a youngster of the valley by the hand and traveled again those treasured trails, pointing out familiar marvels as he went along. In thus reliving the things long remembered in places loved the most, he was able to give the child that precious light which previously he had received from another. Hence he finally found happiness to share in our valley to last him the rest of his days.

FHA farm record winners

The practice of keeping farm records is being recognized as one of the good farm activities. For example, the Cass County, Iowa, Fair awarded blue ribbons to five farm girls this year for their farm records including long-time records of 5 years or more, 1- and 2-year records, and 2-year personal expense accounts. The ribbon winners are the daughters of paid-up or present farm ownership loan borrowers of the Farmers Home Administration. Farm record keeping as stressed by FHA is considered one of the reasons why families using the agency's supervised credit have maintained such a favorable net worth, farm inventory, and repayment record. The parents are passing the practice on down to the next generation.

Soil security

ABOUT TWO-THIRDS of the farmers and ranchers of this country have more or less personal knowledge and experience with conservation. But according to Dr. Robert M. Salter, Chief, Soil Conservation Service, there still remains nearly 900 million acres of agricultural land in farms and ranches in need of basic soil conservation treatment. He also points out that in reality there are only about 460 million acres of farmland that is suitable for growing cultivated crops continuously under present economic and technological conditions. It is felt that fully 46 million acres now under cultivation should be converted to grass and trees as being the only way they can be conserved for any productive use whatever. To offset this it is stated that there are 95 million acres already in grass and forests which are fairly well suited to crop production if sound conservation measures are applied. This two-way shift in the land-use pattern has a major part in the program that lies ahead for farmers and soil conservationists, it is believed.

There exists grave doubt, however, that we are going fast enough or thoroughly enough with conservation practices to meet the increasing needs caused by increasing populations and soil depletion. Dr. Salter has said that now only about one in every four farmers gets direct help with conservation planning. While we speed up the rate of aid to farmers it is also necessary to develop well-rounded plans on a practical and a scientific basis, in his opinion. Last year the conservation work performed afforded soil protection and improvement on about 3 percent of the Nation's land still in need of further conservation treatment. This rate is twice what it was 5 years ago, but still it falls short of satisfactory achievement.

In thus urging faster conservation work, Dr. Salter pointed out that the lack of adequate soil survey maps could easily become a bottleneck to an overall planning effort. He believes that completion of this national land inventory is vital to both farm conservation and watershed development.

Foreign ag officers

Acting as a liaison agency, Foreign Agricultural Service of USDA is responsible for making recommendations to the State Department in regard to appointments, changes in assignments, and duties of agricultural officers in the U. S. Foreign Service. It is explained that all professional employees after a minimum of one year of experience with FAS will be eligible for assignment as agricultural officers with the Foreign Service.

"Franks" cost money now

CONGRESS ENACTED and the President signed a new law to reimburse the Post Office Department for the transmission of official Government mail matter. It amends section 301 of the Penalty Mail Act of 1948 (62 Stat. 1048), by adding language which requires all Government departments, agencies, and establishments (including Congress and Government corporations) to reimburse the Post Office Department in amounts equivalent to the amount of postage on their penalty mail.

These amounts will be transferred to the Post Office Department as postal revenue, out of any appropriations or funds available to the departments, agencies, and establishments concerned. These amounts will be determined according to regulations prescribed by the Postmaster General, and accounted for by adjustments based upon reports which the Post Office Department now receives. Similar information relative to penalty mail is already developed but there is no actual transfer of funds involved, such as the new law provides.

The new law does not in any way broaden or extend the existing authority to use penalty mail. There is no change in the classes of individuals entitled to the franking privilege. The objective is to credit the postal revenues with an amount equal to postage at the regular rates for penalty and franked mail. This action designed to reduce the postal deficit is in accordance with recommendations of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, the Postmaster General, the Bureau of the Budget, and many witnesses at the hearings on postal rate legislation.

A budget and finance memorandum was distributed to the heads of all agencies by Joseph C. Wheeler, USDA Finance Director, with instructions for carrying out the terms of the required annual and quarterly reports. A formula was included for computing costs of first class matter so as to eliminate the need of weighing each individual piece sent out. Mr. Wheeler advised that the regulations must be carefully studied, with additional instructions for reporting and paying postage costs to follow. Each agency was asked to prepare and file estimates of the expected cost of penalty mail for fiscal years 1954 and 1955.

Dr. Ralph J. Garber of the Northeast Regional Pasture Research Laboratory at Pennsylvania State College, has returned to his duties there. He spent a year with the Food and Agriculture Organization at Rome, Italy.

Brief and choice

"At home on the range"

Some things don't deserve a "home on the range." On rangelands in the national forests in charge of the U. S. Forest Reserve, it was estimated that over 440,000 acres call for intensive efforts to control noxious weeds and poisonous plants. These include wyethia, goatweed, yellowbrush, larkspur, sneezeweed, whoried milkweed, locoweed, and poison hemiock.

OPEDA code

Basic objectives and obligations of Department employees are about to be set forth on membership cards in simplified form by the Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture. The original code was written in 1949, setting up a high standard and insisting that career service should be marked by integrity and be free from partisan politics. L. A. Mahurin is the present executive secretary.

Corn Belt agronomists

L. C. Newell, Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station, has sent in notice of the summer meeting of the Corn Belt branch of the American Society of Agronomy. This will occur June 14–16, 1954, at the College of Agriculture, Lincoln, Nebr. Conferences, meetings, and local tours will be featured.

Oklahoma library branch

Mrs. A. P. Juhlin is in charge of the Southwest Branch of the USDA Library at Oklahoma A & M College, Stillwater, Okla. It serves all employees located in Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

Ten 4–H "ships"

Dallas Rierson, extension county agent leader with New Mexico A & M College, has listed 10 "ships" relating to 4–H clubs. "Your ships are showing," he remarks, meaning citizenship, leadership, fellowship, friendship, sportsmanship, partnership, salesmanship, stewardship, acquaintanceship, and workmanship.

Soil survey revision

Coming regional and national soil survey conferences will discuss the complete revision of the comprehensive system of soil classification. Dr. Charles E. Kellogg, Director of the National Soil Survey, has written all cooperators and submitted a sample of the revised scheme now contemplated and asked them for critical suggestions thereon. "There may be some soils that will not fit anywhere in the system as it now stands and will simply drop down cracks. These need to be brought to light so that proper modifications of present definitions can be made or new units established," writes Dr. Kellogg.

Turkey figures

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics is expanding its turkey statistics program. At the request of the Turkey Industry Advisory Committee named by Secretary Benson, work is under way to set up more timely and valuable production and marketing figures.

Grad school again open

USDA has sponsored its Graduate School for 32 years, making it available for afterhours classes, but without any regular appropriation. Since 1921, more than 100,000 Federal employees have taken advantage of the offerings in its program—based on recommendations made through employee committees. Secretary Benson has asked all agencies to acquaint employees with this great opportunity.

"Rudy" Allen retires

Rudolph S. Allen, an employee of the Information Division in the Bureau of Animal Industry, retired October 15 after 33 years of service. In August 1920 he entered employment in the exhibits section of BAI and spent some time on the road with the displays where he handled their erection and functioning. He brought to the Bureau the experience of 20 years with the University of Maryland, where he served as assistant in animal husbandry and had charge of swine investigations. In later years Mr. Allen has been custodian of the photograph and visual materials files for all sections of BAI.

Warner fits them to go

Foreign Agricultural Service has an expanded orientation program to help Americans who are headed for overseas agricultural posts under point 4. A competent staff has been assigned to these duties, with Kenneth Warner as its head. Mr. Warner was a meat specialist with the Bureau of Animal Industry and Extension Service previous to joining FAS a few years ago.

Seed testers elect

Last May the International Seed Testing Association met at Dublin, Ireland, to tackle several pressing technical matters of the craft. The elected officers for the coming year are: H. A. Lafferty, Ireland, president; W. A. Davidson, Grain Branch of PMA, 1st vice president; P. Wellington, United Kingdom, 2d vice president; K. Sjelby, Denmark, secretary; and E. H. Toole, PISAE, member of executive committee.

Experimental seed storage

The U. S. Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Md., has erected a new seed storage facility. It will serve the needs of the northeastern State experiment stations for experimental seed storage space. The Division headquarters is also using it. No sealed containers are used because the temperature in the storage rooms is kept at 34° F. and relative humidity at 25–30 percent. Meanwhile prior to its occupancy in full, Dr. C. O. Erlanson, head of PE & I Division offers limited space to research workers of the Bureau. Seasonal seed storage is not invited.

Handling foreigners

Foreign Agricultural Service has had a busy year aiding the large numbers of overseas technicians visiting here. During 1953 fiscal year 2,102 foreign agricultural technicians from 60 countries were programmed through study courses ranging from 2 weeks to a full year. All except 857 of these visitors had all official arrangements made for them by FAS, including travel and maintenance services.

Davies aids CCC

Aled R. Davies of Valparaiso, Ind., is the newly appointed consultant to Howard Gordon, president of the Commodity Credit Corporation. Mr. Davies is director of the livestock department, American Meat Institute. He will give special attention in his work with CCC to the promotion of perishable foods which are in extra abundant supply.

Enough, such as it is

Plenty of food tonnage is produced in the world, but two-thirds of the human family have substandard diets. This is the conclusion made in a special report by the Office of Naval Research, and completed by the Medical Geography Department of the American Geographical Society.

Quick phosphorus test

A faster and more practical laboratory test for phosphorus existing in both acid and alkaline soils has been perfected by PISAE scientists working with associated research men at Colorado A & M College, Fort Collins. The test is made by extracting the phosphorus from the soil sample by using a solution of sodium bicarbonate or ordinary baking soda. It was developed by Dr. S. R. Olsen, Dr. C. V. Cole, Frank Watanabe, and Dr. L. A. Dean—the first three being stationed at Fort Collins.

100 years of entomology

To give the public better information on the vast insect problem of the country as well as the contributions that the profession has given to the health and welfare of the people, 100 years of professional entomology will be observed in 1954. The first entomologist was hired by the Federal Government on June 14, 1854. At about the same time New York State employed its first entomologist. Hence the June 14, 1954, date has been chosen for the observance under widespread cooperation by many agencies of the State and Federal governments.

Script man O'Crotty

Coming to USDA's Motion Pictures Service direct from Hollywood, Peter O'Crotty takes over the desk formerly occupied by Boyd Wolff. He entered motion pictures work through the newspaper route, and was for some time a foreign correspondent. He has written scripts for MGM, Warner and others. He is a native Californian.

Junior forest rangers

Because children love to dress up and enact the part of heroic figures in the world of nature and western life, Forest Service people have led a movement for the encouragement of Smokey Bear as another such idol of juvenile admiration. Probably we shall soon see kiddies wearing the familiar outdoor costume of the "fire-preventin' bear" while staunchly upholding the principles of woodland conservation at its best, as Junior Forest Rangers. It will all be conducted under the supervision of the sponsors and carefully protected by license from unwise exploitation, as provided by law.

Ralph Swain murdered

While on a vacation trip in Mexico with his wife and two children, Ralph Swain, entomologist for the point 4 program in Nicaragua was shot and killed by highway robbers on October 3. Mr. Swain was author of an article on page 350 of the 1952 Yearbook of Agriculture. He took his degrees at Iowa State, Colorado A & M College, and the University of Colorado. He worked for the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine on projects for the control of Mormon cricket and the white-fringed beetle. He was chief inspector at the Foreign Plant Quarantine Inspection House for the Port of New York, at Hoboken, N. J., until he began work for the TCA in 1951.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR NOVEMBER 18, 1953

Farm balance sheet

THE NINTH successive January 1 balance sheet of agriculture has been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, bringing forward to 1953 the comparisons of the financial situation of U. S. agriculture as though it were one large enterprise.

In general, falling prices caused the assets of agriculture to decline in 1952, which also happened in 1949. The report says that these were the only years in the entire 1940–53 period in which the assets of the industry failed to increase.

As of January 1, 1953, the estimated total assets of agriculture were 165 billion dollars, or 2 percent less than for January 1, 1952. The total liabilities were placed at only 15.9 billions, or 10 percent greater. Proprietors' equities fell 3 percent to 149.5 billion dollars as of last January.

However, by comparison with the full period from 1940 through 1953, the 1953 assets of agriculture stand at 207 percent, total liabilities at 59 percent plus, and proprietors' equities at fully 241 percent. Actual comparison of 1953 with 1943 indicates the greater monetary difference clearly—the assets of 10 years ago being only 75.8 billion dollars, liabilities about 10 billions, and proprietors' equities only 65.8 billion dollars.

Farm debts continued to increase in 1952, but at a slower rate. On the assets side, demand bank deposits seem to have gained by about 300 million dollars, or 10 percent. Currency and U. S. savings bonds held by farmers each increased about 100 million dollars, and their equity in cooperative businesses gained about 200 million. The report claims that the increase in redemption value of U. S. savings bonds owned by farmers resulted entirely from accrual of interest on the bonds, because farmers actually cashed more bonds than they bought during the year.

The report states that the net gain in purchasing power of farmers' liquid financial assets was about 4 percent for 1952, since up to January 1, 1953, the prices of some things that farmers buy were lower. For the first quarter of 1953, it is stated, prices farmers received were about 10 percent less than a year earlier, and prices paid were down about 2 percent. It is finally estimated that the 1953 net farm income may decline somewhat because gross farm income will probably fall faster than will the usual production expenses for farm operation and maintenance.

The balance sheet in much detail is published as Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 115. Its contents were prepared by Norman J. Wall, F. L. Garlock, L. A. Jones, R. W. Bierman, W. H. Scofield, A. V. Nordquist, C. E. Burkhead, J. J. Morgan, George D. Harrell, E. W. Grove, Margaret Cannon, all of BAE, and Barbara Reagan, BHNHE.

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Courage and serenity

Here is a quotation used in the preface of the USDA Supervisors' Guide:

"Whatever your career may be, do not let yourselves become tainted by a deprecating and barren scepticism, do not let yourselves be discouraged by the sadness of certain hours which pass over nations. Live in the serene peace and quiet of laboratories and libraries. Say to yourselves first, "What have I done for my instruction?" until the time comes when you may say, "What have I done for my country?" Then you may have the immense happiness of thinking that you have contributed in some way to the progress and the good of humanity. But whether our efforts are, or not, favored by life, let us be able to say, when we come near the Great Goal, "I have done what I could."—*L. Pasteur.*

Kill-pest chemicals

AMERICAN FARMERS spend at the rate of about 300 million dollars a year for insecticides, or about 1 percent of the gross farm income. They buy 60,000 to 100,000 power machines each year to apply them and other pesticides, says *The Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*. Pesticides are those agricultural chemicals which are used to kill insects, fungus diseases, weeds, and rats. Sometimes other materials such as crop defoliants and hormone fruit sprays are regarded in the same general class.

The chemicals industry presents an annual review of the pesticides situation. Largely responsible for this report is Harold H. Shepard, Mobilization and Activities Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. He entered USDA employment in 1946 to take charge of the insecticide testing laboratory at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md. He had previously been in the Department of Entomology at the University of Minnesota, and associate professor at Cornell University.

State specialists and private manufacturing companies also play a big part along with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in the constant testing and measuring of the various new pesticides rapidly coming into use. In connection with the challenge to maintain pesticide quality and reasonable effectiveness and safety, part of an editorial in the September 2 number of *The Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* is quoted herewith:

The organic pesticide industry is relatively new. It took off from the discovery of the powers of DDT, which was sensational. The industry lives on toxic materials. It stands in the middle of the food production chain with an interest on one hand in crop production and on the other in the food produced from those crops. Two sensitive objects are involved—the farmer's pocketbook and the human stomach. The pesticide producer's sleep is plagued by the possibility that a slip in his work or carelessness in using his product may damage a crop or contaminate a food.

He may be subject to a justifiable suit or he may fall victim to a legal opportunist. The public is highly sensitive to the use of "chemicals" in its food—in ignorance of the fact that man has eaten chemicals since time immemorial. A misstep may bring trouble which is real and retribution which is justified. But sensationalism in the newspapers can influence the public mood in such a way as to seriously retard man's progress against pests, to say nothing of dealing an unjust blow to an industry.

In a conscientious effort to prevent mishap, the legislators take steps. * * * There are bound to be new laws. The public has the right to protection. The pesticides industry can only hope for sound and proper regulations which will not make new developments prohibitively expensive.

"Futures" future

AN OPINION often expressed that futures trading on the exchanges reached its peak perhaps in the twenties and has since been declining is not generally true, according to an address by J. M. Mehl, Administrator of the Commodity Exchange Authority, before the Chicago Board of Trade in September.

Mr. Mehl said that most of this unsupported opinion stems from the fact that wheat and corn markets are smaller, but that reduced volume in these grains is not representative of futures trading in other commodities. While certain economic changes like world trade barriers and the domestic loan programs have been a factor in smaller wheat and corn trading, the wheat and corn markets have nevertheless maintained relatively stable futures volume since World War II. Meanwhile they have afforded adequate hedging facilities and performed neecssary risk-bearing services, he pointed out.

The relatively high level of "open contracts" in grain futures reflects the continued importance of the hedging services of the grain futures markets, Mr. Mehl said.

For the year ended last June 30, the average month end open contracts for grain futures of all varieties was 332 million bushels on all supervised futures markets. That is the largest figure for any year since 1933–34, he stated. The alltime peak figure of 375 million bushels was reached in 1923–24, based on all exchange records.

Likewise cotton exchange trading in late years compares favorably with the 1920's, and most all other commodities on the exchanges had record high years in the period since then, Mr. Mehl observed. He said the markets no longer depend on feverish public speculation, led by large professional operators as a source of market volume. Yet he thinks that relatively large futures trading markets and their growth in service to agriculture have a strong and positive future, minus weaknesses and excesses they have so wisely discarded.

BAI changes of personnel

Bureau of Animal Industry has listed a few shifts in field personnel. Dr. W. F. Daut succeeds Dr. S. N. Studer as inspector in charge at Arkansas City, Kans. Dr. Studer has come to the Washington office of the Inspection and Quarantine Division. Dr. W. S. Houk succeeds Dr. Charles Barnes as inspector at Springfield, Mass. Dr. Barnes has gone to Ottumwa, Iowa, where he succeeds Dr. J. L. Myers, who has transferred to Omaha, Nebr.

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry: CARL E. BASS, Clerk, Washington, D. C.

Farmers Home Administration: HARRY C. VOGT, County Supervisor, Columbia, Missouri.

Forest Service: JOHN R. CASTLES, Forester, Missoula, Montana; CHARLES H. MCDONALD, Forester, Missoula, Montana; CHIQUITA R. WOODS, Clerk-Typist, San Francisco, California.

Production and Marketing Administration: GEORGE P. HENDERSON, Jr., Fiscal Accounting Clerk, Washington, D. C.; ROBERT T. MEEKINS, Property and Supply Clerk, Washington, D. C.

Watershed work

WATERSHED PROTECTION projects will soon begin on some 60 small areas in about 34 States in cooperation with local, State, and other Federal agencies and people residing therein. The Soil Conservation Service is responsible for developing the program, with an appropriation of five million dollars for first-year planning and treatment. It is expected that local interest will contribute at least an amount equal to the estimated Federal cost of about 29 million dollars, covering a period of not more than five years.

Each watershed project must have a local sponsor or sponsoring agency because of the Federal-State-local cost-sharing provision. The funds secured from the 1954 Appropriation Act do not provide for certain forms of individual assistance like irrigation and drainage. These are being supplied by soil conservation districts and other cooperators under authority of other laws.

While the Soil Conservation Service has been assigned general responsibility within USDA for the watershed projects, other services, such as Forest Service, will cooperate in carrying out certain phases of the program within their special fields of experience. SCS will coordinate plans for these projects with other Federal agencies and Inter-State Compact Commissions where such need exists. Department press release No. 2404–53 carries more details and a list of authorized and proposed watersheds where such projects are contemplated.

Taggart leaves

Dr. Glen Taggart, who has served as Chief of the Technical Collaboration Branch of Foreign Agricultural Service, has gone to Michigan State College, East Lansing. He will do both research and extension teaching as a rural sociologist.

Fresh and visible

CONSUMER PACKAGES of fresh vegetables should slow up the rate of water loss, preserve freshness and flavor, provide visible attractiveness, prevent bruising, and handle easily without excessive cost. Many types of transparent films for perishable food wrapping have been developed lately, such as cellophane, pliofilm, cellulose acetate, and polyethylene bags.

USDA workers in cooperation with the Western Growers Association in 1952 completed prepackaging tests on 11 different vegetables in which 27 different package films were used. Four different films gave similar keeping quality for each vegetable. They found that choice of films for this purpose depends on many things besides its effect on wilting, shriveling, and preservation of freshness.

According to R. E. Hardenburg, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, the matter of ventilation and refrigeration are highly important because vegetables stay alive after harvest and hence need oxygen. Most films do not allow sufficient air exchange at room temperature for even the slowly respiring vegetables. To offset this, mechanical perforations or incomplete closures are advisable, he states.

Where there are no tiny air holes or openings left, the oxygen in the package soon becomes exhausted by plant respiration, whereupon fermentation begins. Then the off-flavors and stale odors are produced. The bad effect of thus smothering the package contents which causes severe flavor losses is usually of greater importance to vegetable quality than using the tight, nonventilated films in an effort to maintain natural color and appearance, Mr. Hardenburg believes.

The field heat of freshly harvested vegetables must be promptly removed by precooling, and thereafter the packaged produce should be held strictly under adequate low temperatures, the research people say. They point to broccoli, which has only a few days' good keeping quality at 70 degrees F., but which has a shelflife of two to three weeks under refrigeration. Finally, the USDA workers say that the trimming and washing of fresh vegetables often causes bruising. In extreme cases such injury makes the vegetables more perishable when packaged than otherwise.

The leave leaflet

Probably your personnel offices have copies of a recent leaflet sent out by USDA Office of Personnel relating to the new Annual Leave and Sick Leave Act. It's called Your Annual Leave as Affected by Recent Changes. It should help settle vexing questions.

Said on the side

BREAD ALONE is not and never has been the main goal and heart's desire of most of the folks up and down our old valley. But somehow, when the tang of Indian summer fades into the dull brown of late fall, and the only spots of color left in the fields are the last gleam of the goldenrod and the orange tone of the pumpkins, a fellow begins to think of pies, sweet cider, and wild grape jelly. He always finds excuses to leave the barn and feedlot and mosey up to the house, just to inhale some of the rich aroma that fills the kitchen and seeps out in an appetizing way with spicey promise of mighty menus. Maybe he takes a hand in squeezing apple juice with the old cider press, or helps hang up the drip bag full of grape mash, or slices some pumpkin and squash. Anything he can do to help Ma and the girls fix up coming feasts is a lot nicer than fall plowing or fence mending—although it's those outdoor chores that give the lank and empty feeling which only the sharp corners of a square meal will rub off. Your average valley family sets great store by their cooking and eating all right, and folks welcome good recipes from neighbors or home demonstration agents. Yet most of them eat to live, and not the other way around. Most of us in the valley appreciate sitting down to a meal of varied victuals, but when we say grateful things about another bountiful year being over there's a lot more meaning behind it than reaching for another handout of sage dressing and chicken gravy. The idea is much broader and deeper and more comforting than having marvelous meals. What we get from food after all is the health and vitality we need to share in and contribute to the richness of country life; and to defend and uphold those lasting ideals handed down from one generation to the next as symbols of things Americans are really thankful for. Even the heartiest eater who takes a nice, long nap afterwards—he knows he's lucky to live in a country where a man can slumber on his own time and a soft mattress, instead of being slugged into some starvation labor camp for a sick spell and a "brain wash."

Symphony orchestra

The Department of Agriculture's Symphony Association begins its winter series of concerts in the Jefferson Auditorium on November 23. Admission to each of the three concerts to be performed this season will be by membership card of the association at $2 for regular ones and $10 for each sponsor membership. The latter will be entitled to invite three guests for each concert.

"By other means"

REVISED REGULATIONS governing the Graduate School as recently signed by Secretary Benson, have a significant paragraph inserted which may or may not result in opening up new reserve income sources for the institution. This phrase comes in the paragraph relating to the cost of operation of the Graduate School: "providing that the cost of operation in addition to facilities and resources furnished by the Department, shall be borne by the fees paid by students or by *other means* such as voluntary contributions, bequests, and grants, provided such funds are acceptable by the Board and are utilized in accord with the regulations governing the Graduate School."

Hence from this time on, good friends and trust foundations with spare funds to donate may grant financial aid to support appropriate activities that could not easily be supported from the student registration fees. This opens up opportunities to realize benefit to the Graduate School from persons or agencies who wish to give fellowships or other sums for development of special courses that employees recommend—or even include funds for training selected employees of the land-grant colleges on special assignments. Dr. P. V. Cardon, Director of the Graduate School, has much faith in these possibilities as a means of advancing the educational opportunities of Federal workers and thereby giving greater strength to government work itself.

Golumbic to Olustee

Dr. Calvin Golumbic, formerly with the U. S. Bureau of Mines, was appointed in August as chemist on the staff of the Naval Stores Station, Olustee, Fla. His work will be to direct fundamental research, under the direction of E. L. Patton, head of the Station. He holds degrees from Pennsylvania State College and Rutgers University.

Soil Conservers meeting

The eighth annual meeting of the Soil Conservation Society of America was held at Colorado Springs, Colo., November 5–7. Three presiding officers scheduled as chairmen of general meeting were Dr. Robert M. Salter, Chief, Soil Conservation Service; J. Alfred Hall, Director, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis.; and Dr. Richard E. McArdle, Chief, Forest Service. Included among the speakers were E. J. Dykesterhuis, SCS, Lincoln, Nebr.; Dr. Raymond Price, Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station, Tucson, Ariz.; P. D. Hanson, Regional Forester, Missoula, Mont.; A. M. Hedge and Frederick Renner, SCS, Washington, D. C.; Frank C. Edminster, SCS, Upper Darby, Pa.; and Lincoln Ellison and Reed Bailey, Director, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah. H. Wayne Pritchard of Des Moines, Iowa, is the executive secretary. Dr. E. H. Graham, SCS, is a member of the national council for the society.

Brief and choice

Agronomy sessions

On November 16–20 the American Society of Agronomy with the Soil Science Association of America met at Dallas, Texas. Many USDA and State college speakers participated. Presiding officers at some of the section meetings and discussions included these persons from USDA; H. R. Haise, O. C. Rogers, and J. L. Retzer. Dr. Robert M. Salter had an "invitation paper" at the opening general meeting.

Prize packaging

The Produce Prepackaging Association, a trade group located at Stamford, Conn., awarded certificates of merit in October to a research team from PISAE for good work on technical problems of prepackaging. Members of the team include H. A. Schomer, G. L. Rygg, R. E. Hardenburg, Fisk Gerhardt, M. Lieberman, B. A. Friedman, J. Kaufman, and Howard Hruscka.

Did you do it?

In the previous issue of the *USDA* (November 4) the opinions of readers were sought regarding the actual value of the publication to them. Deadlines are set for the receipt of the "returns" as of December 1. We hope you and your fellow office employees have already filled in the blanks and sent them back to us.

Meat inspection gains

This is the 47th year of continuous meat inspection service under provisions of the Meat Inspection Act, approved June 30, 1906. At that time inspection was maintained in 163 establishments in 58 cities. This year the work has expanded to 1,019 plants in 397 cities and towns. The seven laboratories of the Meat Inspection Service examined 20,504 samples of meat and meat foods and ingredients used in their preparation. Of this number 1,562 samples were rejected.

Hevea improvement

According to Dr. K. S. Quisenberry, PISAE, superior clones of Hevea (rubber plant) have been produced at Bel Terra, Brazil, in cooperation with the Instituto Agronomico do Norte. Through cooperative arrangements with Brazilian authorities, these clones are being made available to cooperators in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, and Peru.

Turkey pullorum testing

Regular monthly reports of the pullorum testing of turkeys by State agencies are being issued by cooperation of State authorities under the National Turkey Improvement Plan, Bureau of Animal Industry, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. During the months of July, August, and September turkey pullorum tests increased 38 percent over the same 3 months last year.

Front Royal is honored

Mrs. L. G. Skiles, Farmers Home Administration office clerk at Front Royal, Virginia, looked up from her work on August 21 to greet an office caller, a man dressed in sport shirt and slacks. He said his name was Benson, and asked for the county supervisor, T. C. Henderson. Mrs. Skiles said he was holding a committee meeting and that the visitor was welcome to go in and speak to him. So Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson went in and visited with Mr. Henderson and the Warren County Farmers Home Administration committee. He inquired about the number and kind of loans and discussed the program in general. "Just a regular fellow," they described him afterwards.

New FCA law soon effective

Provisions of the Farm Credit Act of 1953 will become effective December 4, 1953. At the national level there will be a 13-man Federal Farm Credit Board which will have direction, supervision, and control of the FCA. The Board will appoint a Governor who will be the responsible administrative officer. FCA remains housed in the Department.

No corn quotas

Secretary Benson has announced that the total supply of corn for the 1953–54 marketing season is below the level at which under the law, marketing quotas would be invoked. Yet under the mandatory provisions of the law, acreage allotments probably will be proclaimed not later than next February 1, for commercial corn-producing areas.

Training committee

The new membership of the Committee on Training in Administrative Management for the Department are: Frederick W. Babbel, Office of the Secretary; R. T. Beall, REA; Marcus Braswell, PMA; Carl Colvin, FCA; Cannon Hearne, FAS; Paul V. Kepner, Ext.; Earl W. Loveridge, FS; Sterling R. Newell, BAE; John L. Wells B & F; Donald Williams, SCS; C. O. Henderson, Pers, Chairman.

BHNHE visitors

The total number of visitors to the offices of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics in the 1953 fiscal year was 2,597. Of these, 731 persons were from 67 foreign countries while the U. S. visitors numbered 1,858 persons from 48 States and the District of Columbia—8 others being of unknown origin.

Spiker retires

A. R. Spiker, who came to the Fruit and Vegetable Division of USDA in 1927, retired at the official age limit from a position in the Fruit and Vegetable Branch of PMA on September 30. His work was with transportation arrangements and maintenance of records.

"Mike" Rowell leaves

E. J. "Mike" Rowell, Chief, Marketing Programs Division, Office of Information Services in PMA, left the Department October 16 to become executive director of the Greater New York Producer Dairy Council Committee, Inc. This unit is affiliated with the National Dairy Council, with headquarters at 11 West 42d Street, New York City. Mr. Rowell joined USDA in 1929 with the New England Radio News Service, with which BAE was then associated. He came to Washington in 1937 to develop radio work with BAE, and served since 1945 in the position last held with PMA.

Mangham succeeds Thatcher

Arthur B. Thatcher, Director of the Office of Plant and Operations since 1939, retired effective October 31, 1953. Francis R. Mangham of the Soil Conservation Service has succeeded him. As Director of P&O, Mr. Thatcher has had charge of the space, communications, records management and central supply and mailing services of the Department. He is a native of Vermont and first entered the Government service in the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, in December 1917. He later served in the Post Office Department and the General Accounting Office prior to joining the Department. Mr. Mangham has been in Government work, including the armed services, since 1935. He holds a degree from Louisiana Polytechnic Institute and a law degree from the North Texas School of Law, Fort Worth. He entered SCS at Minden, La.

Whipple to FAS

Clayton E. Whipple is the new deputy director of the Foreign Agricultural Service. Coming to the Department for the second time from the directorship of agricultural work in the Technical Cooperation Administration, Mr. Whipple has had a quarter of a century of experience in foreign agricultural work.

Rivenburgh and rice

Dexter V. Rivenburgh of the Foreign Agricultural Service is on an extensive assignment in Europe, Asia, and Africa on a study of markets for U. S. rice in foreign lands. He will visit 16 areas of three continents where rice is imported.

Newell's notes

Refreshing and different are the brief human interest pieces that appear regularly in USDA's *Agricultural Situation* directed to crop and livestock reporters on farms and ranches. S. R. Newell, Chairman of the Crop Reporting Board, writes in a friendly and imaginative style which contrasts with most ordinary "economic language."

Readers' reminders

Legume inoculation

Fitting the most effective bacteria culture to the right legume crop is now more of an exact science than it was a few years ago. A newly revised and comprehensive bulletin has been published on legume inoculation. Ask for a free copy of F. B. 2003 from Office of Information.

Grasshoppers in history

The July quarterly issue of the magazine, *Agricultural History*, published by the Agricultural History Society, contains a readable article on a new angle. It is entitled "Grasshoppers in American Agricultural History," by John T. Schlebecker, University of Wisconsin.

"Dope" for the farm-hungry

Questions and answers for the public in general who want to know where and how to get a piece of farmland fill a popular demand. What about homesteads? How about farmland on surplus military reservations? Where are the best farms for sale? What authorities should be consulted locally on farm purchases? What loan agencies help finance farm buyers? All these and other pertinent queries are found in a newly revised edition of a 4-page leaflet, No. 299, originally issued in 1947. It's by Marshall Thompson, BAE information specialist.

Electrified farms

According to Rural Electrification Administration there were as of last June 30 about 4,888,460 farms connected to lines of all power suppliers, which brings the total to 90.8 percent of all U. S. farms against about 88 percent 1 year ago. Only one State has less than 80 percent of its farms connected to high lines. You may get the State estimates and other data by asking USDA Editor for No. 2344.

Foreign trade indexes

Foreign Agricultural Service has prepared two monthly quantity indexes of U. S. foreign trade in agricultural products, one for exports and the other for imports. Both have the same base period and method of computation. The old index has proved unsatisfactory. Robert B. Schwenger directed the work, which is mimeographed as a revision of the 1941 original and reissued last month. It's listed as F. S. 85.

Crowded out

Detailed tables showing the distribution, symptoms and control of some of the more important plant diseases appear as Supplement 221 of the Plant Disease Report as of October 15, 1953. This material was among considerable overset copy that got crowded out of the 1953 Yearbook of Agriculture.

School lunch opinion

After the National School Lunch Advisory Committee and their USDA consultants finished their 2-day sessions in Washington, D. C., at the invitation of Secretary Benson, a short digest of conclusions about this valuable service was released. For your copy write to Editor of *USDA* asking for No. 2401.

Plant survivors listed

National Arboretum Contribution No. 1 of August 1935 consists of a scientific list of all the plants now growing naturally at the National Arboretum in northeast Washington, D. C. Oliver M. Freeman, the author, was formerly botanist and curator of the living plant collection there, administered by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. Whether plants are abundant, rare, or absent at this location depends on the soils, moisture, and general land use before the tract was bought by the Government in 1927.

Farm costs, returns

A processed circular, Farm Costs and Returns, 1952, compares expenses and income for 20 types of commercial family farms in 12 major areas of the country. For 12 out of the 20, net farm income was lower in 1952 than in 1951. Greatest cut in net farm income for the year was with the Intermountain sheep ranches, or a drop from $21,000 to $5,560, whereas in 1951 this same group averaged the top net return of all types. The circular is available from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Foreign maps, charts

A publication called The Foreign Agricultural Situation—Maps and Charts, prepared by our Foreign Agricultural Service, furnishes background data relating to agricultural trade abroad. Its 62 pages printed and 82 charts serve as basic material to accompany the discussions at the Outlook Conference held last month. It's doubtful if many copies are left, but the original supply was distributed through FAS in Room 5922, South Building.

Engineering handbook

The Farm Planners Engineering Handbook for the Upper Mississippi Region is a comprehensive treatise on technical aspects of farm ponds, hydraulic rams, wells, concrete masonry, terracing, water diversion, irrigation, drainage and kindred soil conservation subjects. Edwin Fryburger, Acting Assistant Regional Director of Engineering at the Milwaukee regional office of the Soil Conservation Service, is the compiler. Copies are listed by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, for $1.50 each.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR DECEMBER 2, 1953

Farm outlook

GRASSROOTS thinking showed up in the agricultural finance review issued in October during the Outlook Conference by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The prime factor in the current situation is that agricultural prices, values, and incomes have receded from the high levels of 1951, and are apt to remain lower unless markets for farm products can be expanded. Regarding the results they say:

"Farmers who are not heavily in debt will be able to adjust their farming operations and living expenses to moderately lower incomes. A debt-free owner-operator can slacken his production pace maintained in recent years. But he might feel that this is a good time to build up soil fertility and prepare for increased production when prospects may be more favorable.

"On the other hand, young farmers and others who have bought, stocked, or equipped farms with small downpayments will feel pressure to maintain operations at high levels to meet their other expenses. But in trying to cut expenses they may reduce purchases of feed, fertilizer, and insecticides to a point where gross income may be reduced more than operating expenses.

"Close teamwork between borrower and lender will be required. It may be desirable for some farmers to fund their short-term debts into longer term mortgages so they will have smaller annual payments and more time to complete their obligations. Others may find it desirable to cut their obligations, even at some sacrifice to living standards.

"Time deposits and United States savings bonds owned by farmers have increased during the last 2 years despite the drop in farm income. However, a large proportion of farmers still possess wholly inadequate reserves. These families must accumulate some liquid savings as a protection against emergencies, crop failures, or other unfavorable developments.

"One type of investment that farmers will need to maintain at relatively high levels is farm machinery and equipment. As an offset to depreciation, farmers should earmark part of their incomes as a reserve for eventual replacement. The increase being made by farmers in bank savings accounts and United States savings bonds may be partly a reserve for machinery replacement. Undoubtedly there are many, however, who have failed to recognize the need for such reserves.

"The proper course of action concerning investments in farm real estate will become an increasingly difficult decision for many farm people. * * * From the standpoint of the prospective buyer, it is more important now than when farm prices and values were rising to analyze the debt-paying capacity of a farm and to have adequate long-term financing. For farmers able to make a downpayment of as much as half the purchase price, there is little in the outlook to dismake an efficient operating unit—but the buyer must assure himself that the land will clearly add to production efficiency and net income under present price-cost relationships."

280020°—53

Honeysuckle problem

Southeast Forest Experiment Station workers say that wild growth of honeysuckle has bad features that ov rbalance the fact that game managers are planting it as a favorite forage for white-tailed deer. It is believed that about 1 million acres in the lower Piedmont have heavy invasion of honeysuckle and another large area has it in varying degrees of density. Worst offender is the Japanese variety, which escaped cultivation to get established in thickets from Connecticut to Florida. Its smothering effect makes it a critical factor in management of many loblolly pine stands. Severing high climbing vines and using chemical weedkillers are present means of control.

Ye maligned "inspector"

TRADITIONAL JIBES have been flung hither and yon since days of yore at the role of the Government "inspector." He it is who has often been the easy buffer for the flings of malice and the slams of those who regard public-service folks as general nitwits and nuisances—maybe because they don't work directly for private enterprise.

But over in the City of Brotherly Love to the northward there is at least one such Federal inspector whose activities rival the chores and duties of almost any industrial specialist that critics can trot out. Take the case of Frank Margolies, who seldom sees his official headquarters at the Philadelphia U. S. Customhouse, because he is a "relief" meat inspector for the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Here's a sample of a routine 12-week jaunt Mr. Margolies recently made wherein he inspected and examined a startling array of diversified plants and operations—without the use of the magnifying glass, false whiskers, and huge badge with which the cartoonists love to embellish public investigators.

First, canned certified dogfood got his blessing. Next came examination of bacon slicing and wrapping, followed elsewhere by a serious study into the making of kosher sausages, corned beef, and other animal edibles. Then he did some cold storage inspection of beef for transfer to other Federal agencies, using the proper identity stamps to qualify it for human food. At urgent call, he thereupon donned his butcher's apron and went into the abattoir of another plant to lend aid in making post-mortems on carcasses of slaughtered cattle, calves, hogs, and sheep. Even then, his avid taste for variety was not slaked. The consignments found unfit for human food had to be tanked, denatured, and effectively destroyed under his watchful and expert eye.

When he finished his round of regulatory duty, his only comment was to ask the editor of *USDA* if he'd agree that for interest, variety, and practical experience, this job keeps a willing fellow pretty much on the go.

Curtice papers "on ice"

Some 900 personal scientific papers of the late Dr. Cooper R. Curtice, eminent scientist and parasitologist, were given to the Library of Congress last month by the Curtice family, Fairfax, Va. He and his colleagues of the Department contributed to medical history through being the first to demonstrate that a microbial disease can be transmitted exclusively by an insect carrier or host.

Nutritional research

MODERN NUTRITION research began at Madison, Wis. Some details of the genesis of modern nutritional studies appear in a summary prepared by Dr. Georgian Adams, Experiment Station Administrator, Office of Experiment Stations, published in the 1953 annual report of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station.

The era of nutritional research started at the Wisconsin station in 1907 to determine the effects of organic nutrients from single-plant sources on the growth and reproduction of farm animals. Miss Adams shows that this initial trial was made to determine whether rations alike by chemical analyses, but derived solely from the entire plant of wheat, oats, and corn, would prove to be of equal value in feeding cattle to maintain growth and vigor.

The experiment demonstrated the superiority of the corn-fed animals. The young from the corn-fed group were born at term, were strong and normal, and developed well. But those from the wheat-fed lots were the reverse in all respects with the oat-fed group intermediate.

Biological chemists could not discover what made the difference by use of any method then known. They decided to try using simplified diets and progress onward to more complex ones. Here they met with relative success, it is pointed out. Such purified diets composited from corn starch, wheat starch, milk sugar, butterfat, and purified proteins from hemp seed and corn, and other items, gave a basis for a new procedure in studying animal nutrition. The effect of using various fats in the purified diets became evident soon afterwards.

Out of these studies they obtained evidence by 1913–15 that there existed two essential dietary factors—one fat-soluble and the other water-soluble. Both were needed for growth and well-being of livestock. These were not identified chemically, and for a time were called vitamin A and vitamin B, respectively. This Wisconsin discovery marked the start of the modern nutrition research era and stimulated work in numerous other laboratories.

Miss Adams further states that although animal nutrition was originally the chief concern, this newer research has involved fundamental aspects which have been basic to human nutrition as well. "The epochal findings from this study ushered in the vitamin era and served as a basis for worldwide research that has given us our present knowledge of the dietary needs and the sources from which they come," Miss Adams concludes.

Under the direction of the late Dr. E. B. Hart, and others whose names have become famous in nutrition work, these Wisconsin findings include such items as:

Carotene, the yellow pigment in many plant foods, was shown to be the natural precursor of vitamin A. The water-soluble B vitamin associated with lactose is known as riboflavin; that from the wheat germ is another substance known as thiamine. Besides these, some 10 to 13 additional members of the B complex have been discovered. The present methods of treating or preventing rickets stems from the Wisconsin finding that irradiation of certain foods with ultraviolet light endows them with vitamin D activity. Dramatic pellagra cures obtained with nicotinic acid—a pellagra-preventive factor discovered at Wisconsin in 1937—proved the value of this material for reducing the distressing conditions of the disease.

Recent changes

SECRETARY BENSON on November 2 announced that at the request of Dr. Robert M. Salter, he will be transferred, for health reasons, from the position as Chief of the Soil Conservation Service to be in charge of soil and water conservation studies in the newly created Agricultural Research Service. In his place with SCS, Secretary Benson named Donald A. Williams, in charge of the Agricultural Conservation Program since last February. Meanwhile, for administrative reasons, the regional offices of SCS were abolished. Fred G. Ritchie, of Arkansas, is the new head of the Agricultural Conservation Program Service.

The following are the four main groups provided for by the reorganization and the agencies in each (where new agencies have been formed or major changes made, the name of the person in charge is given in parentheses):

Federal-States Relations: Agencies in this group include: Agricultural Research Service (Byron T. Shaw, Administrator), Forest Service, Federal Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Conservation Program Service, and Farmer Cooperative Service (Joseph G. Knapp, acting-in-charge).

Marketing and Foreign Agriculture: Agencies in this group are the Agricultural Marketing Service (O V. Wells, Administrator), the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Commodity Exchange Authority.

Agricultural Stabilization: Agencies in this group are Commodity Stabilization Service (including the administration of Commodity Credit Corporation programs) (Howard H. Gordon, Administrator), Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and Community, County, and State Committees (Howard H. Gordon, Acting Administrator).

Agricultural Credit: Agencies in this group are Farmers' Home Administration and Rural Electrification Administration.

OPEDA milestone

NEXT YEAR the Organization of Professional Employees of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (OPEDA) will appropriately recognize the 25th anniversary of its founding. The membership card for 1954 will give special recognition to the anniversary and also carry OPEDA's adopted code of ethics. Notices of current dues which have been sent to members contain a message from the OPEDA Council suggesting that no better way to observe the anniversary can be found than to enlist a new member.

After a quarter of a century OPEDA is active and influential in its originally adopted objectives. The character and high purpose of its founders in setting objectives intended to promote the mutual welfare of the Department and its workers has stimulated active interest and effort by its members and officers to the present day.

Note the rollcall of some of its presidents during the formative years: Dr. A. F. Woods, Director of Scientific Work; C. C. Clark, U. S. Weather Bureau; R. E. Marsh, U. S. Forest Service; E. W. Sheets, Bureau of Animal Industry; S. B. Fracker, Bureau of Entomology; and the late M. C. Merrill, Office of Information. Notable among the other officers and past councilors were H. A. Knight, Chief, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils; M. C. Wilson, Extension Service; Dr. W. W. Stockberger, Director of Personnel; Milton S. Eisenhower, Director of Information; and a host of other famous names. Many of those early active members have not ceased their interest in the work of OPEDA, such as Dr. B. A. Porter, BEPQ; Dr. Frederick V. Rand (retired), Office of Experiment Stations; E. W. Loveridge, FS; Emily Clark, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and Ruth O'Brien, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, among others.

Fuel-moisture sticks

WOODEN STICKS are used as indicators to evaluate the relative dryness of fuels as one step in estimating fire danger in the big woods. This idea was conceived nearly 30 years ago by scientists of the U. S. Forest Service, because sticks of known dry weight are a good measure of the moisture content of forest fuels.

Richard E. McArdle, now Chief of the Forest Service, helped develop the idea of using one-half inch square sticks and doweling the sticks together. The system was further tested and developed by the late Harry T. Gisborne of the N. R. M. (in Region No. 1) of the Forest Service. According to C. E. Hardy, writing in the October issue of *Fire Control Notes*, sets of sticks prior to 1942 were not trimmed to any particular ovendry weight, but after that sticks were trimmed to exactly 100 grams dry weight. This cut the computation time and reduced chances of error considerably, and eliminated the need of a special conversion chart.

Since 1951, a manufacturing center for making fuel-moisture sticks for fire agencies of the whole Western Region was set up at the Forest Service warehouse at Spokane, Wash. Here the fuel-moisture sticks are made to a nicety and distributed to the field workers. Each set of sticks consists of four ½-inch ponderosa pine sapwood pieces and two 3/16-inch diameter hardwood dowel pins. Small holes are drilled through the pieces which are then fastened together by the dowel pins with ¼ inch spacing between the pieces. Brads hold the sticks firmly at this spacing on the dowels. Each set of indicators is 20 inches long with an ovendry weight of 100 grams. The manufacturing process is a continuous and delicate one.

For mailing, each set is slipped into an individual paper envelope and stored in a tight box under uniform temperature and moisture conditions. After a few months they are then ready to fulfill the numerous orders received at Spokane from all the Western area, to help foresters determine the relative fire danger as shown by prevailing fuel mosture in the timber.

These sticks are installed at selected fire "danger stations." Here a simple weather shelter is set up. It has a weighing scale for the stick and a psychrometer to measure the dryness of the air; also usually a wind gage to measure the speed of the wind and a rain gage to measure the rainfall. Temperature, air moisture, and wind velocity are usually taken into account, as well as the amount of moisture in the stick. Yet the stick alone is a very direct indicator of how fast dry woody fuels might burn.

Measuring the stick's moisture is simple. The scale is counterweighted to 100 grams, or the exact dry weight of the stick. So when the scale reads 10, which is a total of 110 grams, the stick has 10 percent moisture content. During the fire season, readings of 5 percent or less sometime occur, which means that all dry wood in the forest is like kindling. After a soaking rain, the stick may take up as much as 36 percent moisture. Even without rain, the sticks respond to moisture changes from day to day and from day to night. Thus a fuel moisture stick is a sensitive indicator of what is happening to the dead branches and woody litter that would be fuel in a forest fire.

For Superior Work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Forest Service: SILVRENA MACEBO, clerk-typist, San Francisco, Calif.

Production and Marketing Administration: ZIRL L. HOLTON, instrument maker, Washington, D. C.

Soil Conservation Service: MARTHA J. JONES, clerk-typist, Kankakee, Ill.; ERKE C. KING, agricultural engineer, Wray, Colo.

Draheim elected

Arlington, Va., voters have elected E. R. Draheim, Office of Personnel, as a member of the school board there. He was reelected after serving nearly 4 years, part of the time as board chairman.

List farm policy points

Secretary Benson in a talk at the National Plowing Contest at Eau Claire, Wis., late in September listed the following eight guides he will follow in formulating future farm policies and programs: It must provide a constantly improved farm economy; it must fully protect the farmer's freedom of choice; it must be in the farm interest; it must also be in the public interest; it must be financially practical; it must be geared to use instead of storage; it must solve problems and not create them; and it must square with American principles.

Coffee clinic

A virulent rust disease attacks most of the standard varieties of coffee plants growing in this hemisphere. USDA scientists Frederick A. Wellman and William Cowgill have made a round-the-world search for rust-resistant coffee plants and for ways to combat the rust itself. All of the coffee seeds garnered by these men from the Eastern Hemisphere have been planted in the Glenn Dale, Md. propagation greenhouses of the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction of BPISAE, and thus far have produced more than 10,000 seedlings. Many of these have already been sent to Latin American countries to be used in breeding programs.

To SCS employees

ALL EMPLOYEES in the Soil Conservation Service were reached last month in a statement by Donald A. Williams, Acting Administrator of this agency—formerly head of the Agricultural Conservation Program. This is part of his message:

"The program of the Soil Conservation Service during the last 18 years has been successful because you, working together, with the cooperation of farmers and ranchers and many others, have made it so. The success of the program in the future is also in your hands. I am fortunate that during the last 18 years I have had the opportunity to work at every level of the Service organization. Therefore, I have a keen appreciation of the important role that each of you plays.

"A large majority of you assist soil conservation districts and work directly with the people who own and operate the land, where the soil and water conservation job is to be done. Through your efforts, we must speed up the application of conservation on the land.

"Through this reorganization the Washington office and the State and Territorial offices will be strengthened. And highly competent field specialists will be available to serve groups of States. The Washington and State offices will continue to be facilitating, servicing, and supervisory. Provision has been made for carrying out our new watershed responsibilities. Increasing emphasis is being placed on watershed protection, which offers an enormous challenge to the Soil Conservation Service for combining measures for soil and water conservation and upstream flood prevention.

"There will continue to be great opportunities in the SCS for nearly all of you to make a substantial contribution to American agriculture.

"The adjustments we have before us will be made gradually. A few of you will experience substantial personal inconvenience. We will approach the problems of transfers and realinements with understanding and give every possible consideration to your personal hopes, wishes, and desires.

"I ask for your cooperation and support in adjusting the Service organization in the most efficient and effective manner that is possible. There is before us the vital job of assisting soil conservation districts with the protection and improvement of America's soil and water resources. Let's go forward with renewed diligence."

Byrnes to Michigan

Frank Byrnes, former Ohio State agricultural editor, is now the associate director of the National Project in Agricultural Communications. He will serve with Director Stanley Andrews in the newly developed project located in Wells Hall, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich.

Jump worker award

The William A. Jump Memorial Award is open for any employee of the Federal Government who has not passed his or her 36th birthday as of next December 31, and whose performance demonstrates unusual competence and interest in public administration and basic principles of enlightened public service. Recommendations should be signed by the head of the department or agency, and all nominations must be filed not later than February 1, 1954, with the William A. Jump Memorial Award Committee, room 103, Administration Building, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Brief and choice

Change at Savannah

Roscoe T. Hill, of the New York office of the former Fruit and Vegetable Branch of PMA, has been transferred to Savannah, Ga., to take charge of that office. He succeeds William H. Winfield, who died October 23.

College recruitment

A revised circular has been issued by Office of Personnel to inform the public about employment opportunities in USDA in the fields of specialized work covered by current civil service examinations. Much of the material relates to the junior agricultural assistant examination recently announced. The information should be of real interest to college men and women graduating on or before June 30, 1954. Advisers to college students may also find it helpful.

Pardon the omission

One of the largest cooperative oat-breeding programs is conducted at the Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station, inadvertently left out of a piece on oat breeding and variety improvement in a recent issue. Dr. Ralph M. Caldwell is in charge of the small-grain investigations, assisted by Drs. John F. Schafer and Fred L. Patterson. Leroy E. Compton, associate agronomist, and an employee of the USDA Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases, has been stationed at Purdue since 1921. Dubois, a winter oat, was released in 1952 as a product of this program. Purdue people cooperated in the release of Benton and Clinton oat varieties and were instrumental in the development of Clinton 59 selection, now the most widely grown oat in Indiana.

Elwell retires

Dr. F. N. Elwell, inspector in charge for the former Bureau of Animal Industry at Fort Worth, Tex., has retired after about 49 years of service as a Federal veterinary officer. Mr. Elwell graduated from Iowa State College's veterinary course in 1902 at the age of 18 years, and got a civil service appointment as a veterinarian in 1904, which was the last year that commissions were issued for Federal veterinarians who were only 20 years old. Dr. Elwell says his best contribution to the livestock industry was at the National Stock Yards, Illinois. Here he inaugurated a system of having a Bureau employee check the railway waybills before the animals were unloaded, noting car numbers loaded in suspicious tick-infested territory. He also spent 13 years in the saddle, riding the ranges to inspect cattle and horses. Dr. Elwell will soon move back to the Midwest where his children, grandchildren, and one great-grandchild reside.

Walters wants watchers

Lt. Col. Allyn Walters, formerly with Rural Electrification Administration, who works out of the Colorado Springs Air Defense Command headquarters, is seeking to have more volunteers in rural areas for airplane spotters. It is harder and yet more important to properly man observation posts in the open country zones, with each post occupied by 2 volunteers in 2-hour assignments around the clock.

Burmeister appointment

Gustav Burmeister, for 30 years a career man in the former Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Foreign Agricultural Service, is the new assistant director of the Foreign Agricultural Service. He holds an agricultural degree from Texas A. & M. College and a degree in business administration from Boston University. Clayton Whipple is the acting FSA director.

Research fund

The amount made available by Congress for Federal-grant payments to State Experiment Stations for 1954 was $13,273,708. This is about one million dollars higher than the amount made available for 1953. Only about 1 dollar out of every 5 dollars spent at the State stations comes from Federal grants.

Fellowships

National Science Foundation's student fellowship program has been stepped up to $1⅔ million. About a tenth of the 700 fellowships are postdoctorate, while the rest go to first-, second-, or third-year graduate students. December 15 is the closing date for applications in the postdoctorate class, and January 4, 1954, for graduate fellowships. The Division of Scientific Personnel and Education of the NRF receives applications.

Robinson honored

The Future Farmers of America have conferred the degree of Honorary American Farmer upon James L. Robinson. He was a joint employee of the Extension Service and the Farm Credit Administration for 19 years. The degree awarded to him is in recognition of his help to youthful farmers and high-school agricultural departments in the field of farm credit and cooperatives.

New use for soda straws

Norman Dennis, of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, reports an improved method for successful arrangement of wheat kernels when taking radiograph pictures to detect hidden internal infestations. Either loose or crowded kernels do not make good X-ray films, and many methods were tried until the hit upon using soda straws. Either straws of cellophane or paraffin paper, usually 4 millimeters in diameter, keep the wheat kernels properly lined up. The straws can be loaded in 2 seconds with suction from a vacuum pump or by aspiration. Radiographs can easily be taken of 144 wheat-filled straws at once, each straw containing 45 kernels of wheat.

Smokey bear's "twin"

Smokey, the fire-preventin' bear of wide renown, has a counterpart in Latin America. The new relation to the south is Tio Conejo, or Uncle Rabbit. The long-eared teacher of good farming methods there was dreamed up by Sr. Rogelio Coto Monge, extension editor at the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Turrialba, Costa Rica. Thousands of conservation leaflets and newspaper cartoons carry the quaint symbols and messages of the lively helper. Dr. Armando Samper, of the institute's scientific communications, says that the rabbit idea appeals to farmers in that region.

Carolina home improvers here

Thirty-four home demonstration agents from North Carolina visited the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, Md., on November 3. These visitors represented the local, county, and State councils of North Carolina. Mrs. Dazell Lowe, who has been in home demonstration work for 31 years, and Mrs. Genevieve Kyer, both of the North Carolina Extension Service, supervised the trip. The purpose of the excursion was to acquaint these women more fully with home demonstration work on the Federal level, and to correct any misinformation that they may have had regarding the Department of Agriculture and its work. Through the reports that these representatives will give to the other members of the North Carolina councils when they return, it is hoped that the horizon and scope of home demonstration work will be broadened. Included also in this excursion were trips to historical and scenic areas in Washington and its environs.

Plant disease warnings

Potato and tomato late blight disease was somewhat widely reported but its severity on both crops in 1953 was light, according to the annual summary issued by the Plant Disease Warning Service. In many States tomato late blight did not appear at all or only in a few scattered fields. Only two occurrences of blight on tomato transplants were reported. Hot, dry weather and adequate use of fungicides were factors in reducing its prevalence. Blue mold of tobacco was widespread in about all of the growing areas of Georgia and North Carolina and the southern part of the flue-cured belt of Virginia. There was practically no measurable damage.

Poultry figures

Poultry Branch of PMA last month issued a statistical pamphlet of important facts and figures on the poultry industry. Among other items it showed State rank in a few categories, covering the 1952 production. Iowa was first in eggs sold from farms—363 million dozen, as well as in chickens excluding broilers—144 million pounds. Georgia led with sales of broilers—315 million pounds, and together with chickens, its total cash sales were highest. California topped with turkeys—206 million pounds, and led all states in cash returns on poultry products, with Pennsylvania and Iowa in next order.

Yours truly

AFTER EDITING about 60 issues since September 1951 for readers of the employee news bulletin, *USDA*, the present editor regrets that he feels constrained to yield this stimulating position to a successor—yet to be named. It was a pleasant and educational assignment from the Director of Information, R. L. Webster—one that was undertaken with the good standards and traditions in mind that have been so well established by predecessors, who took pride in recording the notable achievements of our Department employees and agencies through the years. Having devoted most of a lifetime to agricultural journalism and Federal-State relations in agriculture, this latest privilege rounded out this editor's mature career in a favorite field. Upon retirement effective on December 4, your Scribe will be living in Madison, Wis., where he will continue to be a "constant reader" of this and the other more formal literature issued by this wonderful organization of capable people known as the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

DECEMBER 2, 1953; Vol. XII, No. 24

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin

FOR DECEMBER 16, 1953

A Christmas Message

This holiday season it is a privilege to extend to you, my fellow workers of the Department of Agriculture, sincere good wishes for a joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, happiness, and prosperity. At the same time, on behalf of my immediate staff, I thank all of you for your unselfish and untiring efforts to serve the American people through the activities of this branch of our Government.

Our country sorely needs the best that each of us can give at this critical juncture in history which finds two diametrically opposed ideologies and philosophies struggling for the allegiance of man. Eternal principles, the very future of civilization itself, are at stake in this conflict. While many may not grasp its full import, the battle is fundamentally one between the forces of good and evil. And the battleground is the mind of man. With the help of God, we shall win this great crusade.

At this Christmas, let us recognize anew our need for Divine assistance and guidance. Through the ages, communion with the Almighty has been a source of strength, inspiration, and enlightenment to those who have shaped the destinies of individuals and of nations for the good. In our own lives let there be profound realization that man cannot stand alone. With our human limitations, the acknowledgement of a Divine source of truth and power is essential to a full life. He who avails himself of this blessing is free as the boundless universe. He who does not, dwarfs his own potential. He fails to tap the reservoir which contains the greatest source of knowledge, power, and joy available to man.

Christmas is the time when the words "faith," "hope," and "charity" seem to take on added meaning. It is a time when most of us are inclined to be more reflective and perhaps more conscious of the real meaning of those inspiring words which have rung down through the centuries: "Peace on earth, good will toward men." There, in the Biblical account of the first Christmas, is set forth simply and beautifully a message which would have spared man most of his troubles, had he only heeded it. It is not too late for mankind to embrace that thought. But it is none too early, either.

As we enjoy this happy Holiday season, let us never lose sight of our blessings or of the stirring challenges which lie ahead. I deeply appreciate the strength which my association with employees of the Department of Agriculture has given me during the last year. You have reaffirmed my confidence in your integrity and in your desire to serve to your full ability. Many of you, to my personal knowledge, have given above and beyond the call of duty. May a kindly Providence richly reward all of you.

In the full spirit of this season, I again wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

EZRA TAFT BENSON,
Secretary of Agriculture.

Bales on the scales

COTTON GINNERS and field agents of the Cotton Branch in the former Production and Marketing Administration cooperated recently in making a survey of the weights of cotton bales, to determine how much and how often they deviated seriously from the usual range of 450 to 500 pounds gross weight. This was done because extra wide variations from normal weights of bales cause several problems and inefficiencies in handling and marketing cotton. John W. Wright, Chief, Research and Testing Division of PMA, supervised it.

Some bales weigh as little as 300 pounds or less, and others reach the high extreme of 700 pounds gross. The weight tests were made during the 1951–52 and 1952–53 seasons. It was found that two-thirds of the bales in each season weighed within the range of 450 to 500 pounds. However, from 6 to 8 percent of them either tipped the beam at 400 pounds or less or ran over 600 pounds.

Lightweight bales mean a wasteful use of baling material and are very hard to compress to required densities, the specialists state. These lightweight bales are often subject to proportionately higher marketing costs for storage, sampling, weighing, and compression at gins. This is because such charges are levied on a per bale unit regardless of weight. There may also be a larger allowance for tare on bagging and ties, which is subject to penalty.

Extra-heavy bales (600 pounds and up) are a potential source of danger to workmen at the gin press and compress machinery, as well as being damaging to the equipment. They slow down handling operations and are ragged looking and often break apart. Heavyweight bales are also subject to penalty, especially those over 700 pounds.

From the facts secured in this and succeeding surveys, educational work to get the industry to pack more uniform bales of standard market weights, will be forthcoming.

"Impulse item"

Merchandisers who work with USDA in the current honey consumption drive base their operations on the fact that honey is regarded as an "impulse item" and that honey's universal appeal attracts customers and stimulates the sale along with it of many other food items. The 1953 honey crop is estimated at 250 million pounds, so the honey industry is getting the help of USDA and processors and distributors to move it out steadily. A similar effort last year resulted in making the sales volume reach an all-time high.

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Genes and degrees

GARNER AND ALLARD in the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry carried on their classic light experiments a quarter of a century ago with a mammoth variety of tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*) and demonstrated for the first time anywhere that the blossoming and fruiting of many plants is dependent in one way or another upon the length of day. The study of light reactions of plants and practical use of knowledge in this field have gone on increasing and, as usual, following the unveiling of a natural law, further studies have brought up further questions.

Working with another species of tobacco (*Nicotiana rustica*), a wild tobacco, and using a strain into which the mammoth character had been bred and which the experimenters had not succeeded in inducing to flower, Dr. Robert A. Steinberg at the Plant Industry Station found that the lengh of day did not determine blossoming but that a sufficiently low temperature is what starts the formation of buds in this particular species and sets off the blooming mechanism.

According to Steinberg, it was the accident of a coal shortage, making it necessary to reduce temperatures in the experimental greenhouses, that unearthed this long-buried characteristic of low-temperature flowering response. These cooled tobacco plants, by their unexpected blooming, revealed an unsuspected key that turns the flowering switch for some plants as a suitable length of day does for others.

In their efforts to make use of the wild tobacco in improving our well known commercial tobacco, says Steinberg, one thing the specialists tried was to transfer to the wild tobacco the short-day blooming character, long considered to be linked with the character of mammoth size in ordinary tobacco. But the character of response to the short day did not show up in the crosses; they kept on growing and did not flower. Then the accident of the fuel shortage showed Dr. Steinberg that, instead, they responded to low temperature.

What seemed to some to have been a change from a short-day character in a gene to a low-temperature character is explained by Steinberg as a character that went into this variety of *rustica* tobacco when the mammoth characteristic was bred into it. It was not like the mammoth characteristic in Maryland Mammoth (used in the original Garner-Allard discovery) which had blooming associated with length of day, but had its blooming dependent on low temperature. Steinberg assumes that flowering, even of some tropical plants like certain *Nicotiana* species, may be adjusted to respond to low temperatures. He tells plant breeders his experience indicates they should not assume offhand that the mammoth type of growth, caused by inability to flower, is always the result of unfavorable day length. Some may keep on growing because the temperature doesn't get low enough.

Marketing services

CERTAIN PERSONS have been temporarily indicated for position of administrative responsibility in the Agricultural Marketing Service, under O. V. Wells, Administrator. This permits immediate action to further implement Secretary Benson's Memorandum No. 1320, Supplement 4, in regard to the Reorganization Plan No. 2.

F. F. Elliott is Deputy Administrator, Marketing Research and Statistics. Those who report direct to him are Frederick V. Waugh, Director, Agricultural Economics Division; S. R. Newell, Director, Agricultural Estimates Division; and Harry C. Trelogan, Director, Marketing Research Division.

Roy W. Lennartson is Deputy Administrator, Marketing Services. Those who report to him are the following directors of the respective Divisions, formerly embodied in the Production and Marketing Administration: Cotton Division, E. J. Overby; Dairy Division, Herbert L. Forest; Food Distribution Division, Leonard R. Trainer; Fruit and Vegetable Division, S. R. Smith; Grain Division, E. J. Murphy; Livestock Division, Harry E. Reed; Poultry Division, W. D. Termohlen; Tobacco Division, S. E. Wrather.

The Assistant Administrator for Management is Henry G. Herrell. Associated to and reporting to him is A. J. Holmaas, director of the Budget and Finance Division, W. T. Wolfrey, Jr., Acting Director, Administrative Services Division, and C. K. Morrison, Acting Director, Personnel Management Division. Staff officers include Bushrod Allin, as Chairman of the Outlook Situation Board, and Earl E. Houseman, Statistical Clearance Officer. Further designations were to be made soon.

Immortality

YOU SAY that the soul is nothing but the resultant of the bodily powers. Why, then, is my soul more luminous when my bodily powers begin to fail? Winter is upon my head, but eternal spring is in my heart. There I breathe at this hour the fragrance of the lilac, the violet, and the rose, as I did at 20 years. The nearer I approach the end, the plainer I hear around me the immortal symphonies of the worlds which invite me. It is marvelous, and it is simple. It is a fairy tale, and it is history. For half a century I have been writing my thoughts in prose and in verse; history, philosophy, drama, romance, tradition, satire, ode, and song—I have tried all. But I feel I have not said the thousandth part of what is in me. When I go down to the grave I can say, like so many others, "I have finished my day's work." But I cannot say "I have finished my life." My day's work will begin again the next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes on the twilight, it opens with the dawn.—*Victor Hugo.*

Plant improvers

WHEAT BREEDER, R. W. Woodward of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, commenting recently on the plant breeder's job, had this to say:

A plant breeder's main job is to improve varieties in one or more ways. * * * It is necessary to have a wide knowledge of related fields such as plant pathology, entomology, plant physiology, chemistry, etc.

In 1925, when I completed college, the wheat disease problems seemed much simpler than today. Covered smut of wheat, for example, was a simple disease, but by 1932 many races or varieties of covered smut were identified. Now there are at least 32 well-known races of covered smut of wheat. Some can be controlled one way, some another. One great administrator said 23 years ago, after the release of a smut-resistant variety, "Well, now we have the smut problem whipped forever." No one would say such a thing today. A breeder must take into account all of the races of smut when he breeds for resistance. This means perhaps 10 to 15 years of tedious work before a single plant of the desired resistance can be combined with good yield, stiff straw, good quality, and a variety having farmer appeal.

When rust resistance is to be considered, there are over 200 races of black stem rust, over 30 of leaf rust, and a number of stripe rust.

This year scientists of the West have identified two new grain diseases both caused by viruses—yellow dwarf, spread by aphids; false stripes, spread by mechanical means. They can cause 25 to 35 percent loss.

Scientists have scoffed at those who have said their seed had "run out" but now it is evident such a thing can happen if false stripe gets a start and, without being noticed, depress growth a fourth to a third.

But Dr. Woodward ended on an optimistic note: "In spite of diseases and depleted soil fertility, the average yields in Utah and adjoining States have increased over the last 20 years, largely as a result of research and crop breeding."

FIELD ITEMS WANTED

Unusual do–ers

ONE WAY to acquaint our employees and outsiders with the special skills and routine "thrills" which make workdays more or less rewarding and delightful would be to receive more tips to the Editor of *USDA* from supervisors of personnel here and afield. Thus believes the retiring Editor.

One such sketchy listing was sent in by Dana Parkinson, Chief, Division of Information and Education, U.S. Forest Service. Some of these "characters" on the work staff of FS have been widely publicized already, but too few have had the credit they deserve for doing what to them may seem very ordinary things. Just scan the list as an example of what many of our other agencies could match in human interest:

Women in the Dendrology Division with extra-interesting jobs are Doris W. Haynes, a grass expert, who maintains the Nation's largest range-plant herbarium, and Leta Hughey, accomplished artist who draws trees and grass to illustrate bulletins and instructions.

John Sieker, Recreation Division, looks after the welfare of about 25 million campers and vacation fans who visit the national forests and parks. Lloyd Swift, Wildlife Division, knows where the "deer and the antelope play" because he supervises the residents of the animal kingdom in the national forests.

Walter Dutton, Grazing Division, might be called a Federal "boss cowboy" since he rides herd on the annual grazing of some 9 million head of livestock carried on the national-forest ranges. Two men in Timber Management Division could be subjects of attention also. Ira J. Mason handles the production of about 15 percent of the Nation's lumber supply taken from the public preserves. His coworker, James W. Farrell, looks after the planting of new trees to replace those harvested or burned—perhaps up to 45 million trees each year.

Seth Jackson, FS Safety Officer, is in the midst of constant programs to reduce the heavy losses of life and limb so common to woods workers everywhere. C. A. Gustafson, Fire Control Division, runs an 8,000-man fire department and is alert to perfecting new devices and methods that will save more timber from fierce blaze and do it with a minimum tax on manpower and materials.

Finally, there is R. D. Garver, Forest Economics. His job is to direct the Forest Survey, which is an inventory of the timber resources of the entire Nation. Several others equally able and charged with equal responsibility are found in scores of outlying forest regions and at such institutions of the FS as the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis. So, readers are asked to use their judgment and knowledge to give due recognition to persons like these who often fail to get achievement awards or such public acclaim—as well as certain other ones who do. Let's not wait for anyone to retire before saluting him or her for daily tasks well done.

Said on the side

BIRTHDAYS were always remembered by Aunt Martha Brown of our old valley. She had good reason to make birthdays her hobby and give little parties and presents to commemorate them. Aunt Martha had 8 children and 30 grandchildren, 7 brothers and sisters, and 40 nephews and nieces, not to mention a few of her husband's kith and kin worth remembering. Nobody knows to this day how many baby outfits and children's garments she made, or how many layer cakes, lace doilies, and pink pincushions she fashioned against someone's natal anniversary in the offing. Finally, after 40 years or more of this happy-birthday business, Aunt Martha laid aside her needles and mixing bowls for good and went to the cemetery at the foot of Bender's Hill. But no grave in all our valley ever received the attention and floral decorations that hers did, for the kids and parents and old folks whose birthdays she had never overlooked banded together and made a vow. Each one agreed to place a bouquet, an ivy, or a potted plant on Aunt Martha's cemetery lot every time his or her own birthday rolled around. With all and sundry relations conniving that way you can imagine that her resting placed looked like a pretty good spot to stay in—for even the winter birthdays got attention, unless there was a blizzard or a roadblock. By this time maybe the interest is playing out a little, but the real memory of how good and kind Aunt Martha was will stay with all us oldtimers of the valley long after the last relative has laid his birthday token on her final home of earth.

Promote pecans plus

Our pecan production has doubled in the last 20 years, mostly through increased yields per acre. Dr. John R. Magness, director of USDA horticultural research, cites the pecan as an example of what steady research applied to the welfare of a crop can do. By applying research findings of Federal and State workers, pecan growers are now able to control both the rosette disease and the black pecan aphid. Research has also revealed nutrient requirements and soil management practices necessary for increased pecan yields.

Readers' reminders

Taiwan report issued

Rural Taiwan (Formosa) and Its Problem and Promise is a studious survey of the island and its resources, industries, and rural life under authority of the Chinese American Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction. Published at Taipei last summer, the bulletin is by Dr. Arthur F. Raper, project-evaluation adviser with the Mutual Security Agency—since becoming the FOA. Excellent photographs are included by Marie Jensen, and much of the subject matter is the work of special investigators and contributors among the Chinese people. *USDA* Editor has no copies available.

Iraq and TCA

Lewis Henry Rohrbaugh, director of TCA programs in Iraq, formerly director of the USDA Graduate School, has sent in a booklet entitled "Together We Build"—which is the story of the United States technical cooperation effort thus far in Iraq. While numerous United States and U. N. agencies aided in the program, the central responsibility has been centered in the Iraq Government Development Board that uses revenue from the oil industry to begin a unique internal development effort.

Hired farm hands

Special data on migratory farmworkers along with a study and estimate of the 1952 agricultural working force are found in a new mimeograph report from the former Bureau of Agricultural Economics. It's by Louis J. Ducoff, whose preceding labor studies have been widely used.

Crested wheatgrass

H. G. Reynolds and H. W. Springfield, range conservationists at Forest Service's Southwestern Forest and Range Station at Tucson, Ariz., have written Farmers' Bulletin 2056, giving experimental findings from 30 years' wheatgrass culture as a valuable addition to the ranges. Seeding and cultural directions are included. Interested readers may write for copies.

Reducing expenditures

Secretary Benson has called attention to the existing ceiling on the public debt which makes it essential to cut Federal expenditures in the fiscal year 1954. He calls for careful scrutiny of all phases of the administrative program, including reducing inventories, travel obligations, equipment purchases, and restriction of commitments for direct loans, advances, mortgage purchases, and insurance of loans. Agency heads are advised to make all employees in their offices aware of the necessity for reducing expenses.

Peanut sampling

Under the peanut price support program the taking of representative samples of farmers' peanut stocks is necessary to determine the quality of a given lot. State PMA Committees are procuring the equipment with approved specifications to do the job right. For stored bulk peanuts they use sampling tubes and for sacked peanuts sampling horns are used. Such special designed equipment affords the only good way of drawing suitable samples.

Film mailing

Offices handling film and other visual aids should note the information in Budget and Finance Memorandum No. 5, Supplement 95, dated October 6. It concerns recent revisions in the postal laws under which certain of these materials can be sent at considerably reduced rates.

Brief and choice

Honor for Mrs. Collison

Mrs. William E. Collison, Washington, D. C., received one of the first alumni citations granted by Oberlin College at a banquet there in October 1953. She is a member of the home economics staff of USDA, and is a leader of physiological studies of vitamin research. She is also a professor-lecturer at Howard University. Mrs. Collison received the USDA distinguished service award in May 1951.

USDA club speakers

Outside authorities often are invited to address meetings of the USDA Club members at various branch locations. Examples of a few such recent speakers featured during the past few months are these: Andrew Colebank, Federal Milk Market Administrator, at Chicago USDA Club meeting; Dr. H. C. Ramsower, director of extension emeritus, Ohio State University, at Columbus Chapter meeting; Dr. R. G. Gustavson, chancellor, University of Nebraska, at Denver USDA Chapter; John D. Black, Harvard University, at Knoxville USDA Chapter; Dr. O. J. Scoville, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, at Lincoln USDA Chapter; Hy Goldberg, Forest Service, at Milwaukee USDA Chapter; Dale H. Sieling, dean of agriculture, University of Massachusetts, at Western Mass. USDA Chapter; T. Roy Reid of Office of Personnel, at Albuquerque USDA Chapter; and C. O. Henderson, Pers, at Boston USDA Chapter.

Reorganization helpers

At the request of the Department, the U. S. Civil Service Commission has assigned personnel to assist with problems arising from the present reorganization. These men are Nicholas J. Oganovic, Nat Shinderman, and Willard Morris. They have been doing duty in the USDA Office of Personnel.

May Coult retires

Miss May Coult, long known as a foreign-language expert and USDA translator, has retired after 35 years of Government service. Her contributions as a member of the Foreign Agricultural Service staff included translations of highly technical publications from foreign language into English, thus making them available for wider use here. One of her noteworthy translations was of Mal Secco, a study of citrus disease, and her compilation of a Dictionary of the Cuban Tobacco Industry. She expects to continue translating work at her home at Peppermint Brooks Farm, Auburn, N. H.

Detwiler honored

Samuel B. Detwiler, Boulder, Colo., was among a group who received citations for outstanding achievements from the University of Minnesota in October 1953. Mr. Detwiler is an authority on forestry in erosion control. He retired from the Department a few years ago after 40 years of service. He was a member of the first class to be graduated from the Minnesota School of Forestry in 1906.

Elderly alumni

L. A. Buell, Holly, Mich., wrote lately that he entered Michigan State College at East Lansing in 1879 and graduated with the class of 1883. This makes him the oldest living Michigan alumnus of the college. Editor Milon Grinnell of *Michigan Farmer* states that Liberty Hyde Bailey of New York graduated just 1 year earlier than Mr. Buell. Another oldtime student of that institution is Henry V. Clare of Clearwater, Kans. He is 94 and graduated in 1878.

With the Romans

Dr. P. V. Cardon, USDA Graduate School, the United States nominee for the post of Director General of Food and Agriculture Organization, accompanied U. S. Delegate John H. Davis and Alternate Delegate Ralph S. Roberts to the meeting of the FAO in Rome, Italy. Advisers to the United States delegates will also include Dr. F. F. Elliott, Agricultural Marketing Service; Dr. Hazel K. Stiebeling, Chief, former Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics; Verne L. Harper, Assistant Chief, Forest Service; Dr. S. B. Fracker, Assistant to the Agricultural Research Service Administrator; as well as Robert C. Tetro and Thomas A. Street, Foreign Agricultural Service, and Francis A. Flood, Agricultural Counselor to the U. S. Embassy at Rome.

Cross-compliance is out

Cross-compliance with existing basic crop allotments on any farm where more than one allotment is in effect is no longer required. Previous to a recent revised order, the rule was that all producers must keep in strict compliance with all basic agricultural commodity acreage allotments so as to get price support on any of them. All that remains now is to adhere to allotments set for any one basic crop, but not for all the others too. Ask *USDA* Editor for No. 2794.

Boatman is retiring

J. L. Boatman, consultant on soil and water problems in the Extension Service, will retire December 31. He and Mrs. Boatman will reside in Iowa. During Mr. Boatman's more than 30 years with USDA and allied organizations, he has made a remarkable contribution to agricultural progress. Before joining the Department in 1939, Mr. Boatman was regional agronomist for the Soil Conservation Service in five Midwestern States. From 1921 to 1925 he was on the staff of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station and later was with their extension service. The Boatmans expect to spend the warmer seasons in Iowa and then sojourn in parts of the South during the winters.

Miss Coon retires

Miss Ethel L. Coon retired August 31 from the Department Library after almost 35 years' service. *The American Bee Journal* commended her for her work on the bee-culture bibliography in 1949. She also contributed much to the apiculture section of the Bibliography of Agriculture, as well as to the Index to the Literature of American Entomology. Miss Coon will continue to reside at 4811 Western Avenue NW., Washington, D. C.

Dr. Carter retires

Dr. E. H. Carter, Inspector in Charge, USDA's Virus-Serum Control Division, Omaha, Nebr., retired October 31. He had been with the Department for 46 years, and in charge of the virus-serum control work at Omaha since 1932.

E. R. Sasscer retires

E. R. Sasscer, first appointed as a scientific aid in the plant-quarantine field of USDA in 1904, and world wide authority on plant-quarantine work, retired October 31. With the passage of the Plant Quarantine Act in 1912, he had a major responsibility in setting up suitable controls. He did basic research in developing vacuum fumigation with hydrocyanic gas which led to modern plant-quarantine fumigation methods. In May 1953 Mr. Sasscer received the distinguished-service award. He plans to continue the work he has begun on a summary of the more important features of Federal plant-quarantine development.

New Editor

The EDITOR of *USDA* beginning next issue will be Roy E. Miller, Office of Information. Mr. Miller was born on a Missouri farm, and throughout most of his professional career has owned or operated a farm. He was graduated from the School of Journalism, University of Missouri, and studied soils and horticulture at the University of California. Reporting for California newspapers, he soon specialized in farm news and farm pages, and in writing for the agricultural press. He became interested in production and marketing of fruit, particularly in the work of the farm cooperatives. In 1920 he was named editor of the "Associated Grower" magazine, at Fresno, where he served statewide groups of producers' cooperatives for 5 years. Another 5 years was given to business, advertising, and farming operations in the West and the Midwest. He resumed newspaper work in California until 1930, when he received a civil service appointment to do public relations work for the U. S. Forest Service. In Washington, he was assigned to press releases and to writing feature articles on forestry subjects.

In 1937 he transferred to the office of Dr. M. C. Merrill, Chief of Publications, in the Office of Information, as scientific editor and special writer. He became chief of the Editorial Section in 1940, on retirement of Edwin C. Powell. This position he has held since then, except for brief periods when he was detailed to Press Service and to the Savings Bonds Division, Treasury Department.

In the interest of training personnel for competent writing and editorial work in Government services, he has taught "sundown" classes in the editorial courses of the Graduate School for several years.

Last year he rewrote First Aid for Flooded Homes and Farms, and in previous years has written bulletins on poultry subjects. Basically, however, his interest has been in pushing through good readable copy for the numerous Department publications on the application of research findings to agriculture.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR DECEMBER 30, 1953

President views exhibit

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER inspected the Department of Agriculture conservation exhibit in the Patio November 30. With Secretary Benson and members of his staff, the President studied pictorial and mechanical devices designed to show methods of protecting and making the best use of soil, water, and forest and range resources that are our common heritage.

Many units of the Department participated with the Exhibits Service in assembling the displays. Each piece is mounted and available for display elsewhere.

Specially prepared for the Conservation "show" was the 28-foot-long painting demonstrating conservation treatment for small watersheds. This painting lies on the floor and is viewed from a platform, so that it simulates an aerial view of the watershed. Shading also brings out the relief, or lay of the land. Small floodwater-retarding structures are shown in relation to soil conservation and dependence of towns and industries on water supply. The exhibit is one of a series planned by the Department for the Patio.

Secretary Benson said that resource conservation is best done by treating an entire watershed as a unit. Teamwork of all Department facilities—research, education, and technical assistance—make a program effective. Such a program also requires cooperative effort among farmers and places responsibility on the Department for constructive leadership. The Department's work involves human relationships, economic factors, and public welfare, as well as the physical conditions depicted in the exhibit. The national soil and water conservation program will help stabilize farm production, reduce damage from floods and sediment, and improve the quality and reliability of water supplies.

Secretary Benson said that the Department's small-watershed protection program is undertaking to carry out the program outlined by the President in his message delivered to the Congress last July. In that message, the President stated:

"Conserving and improving our land and water resources is high priority business for all of us. . . . Such a program is indispensable to maintaining and improving our standard of living as we make the future secure for a growing America."

Grouped about the map were other displays, one showing the steps necessary to getting a work program underway. Another indicated the water supply for irrigation and domestic use to be expected from different sides of a forested mountain, one side of which had been denuded by forest fire. Others depict field demonstrations, increased production and profits from a well-irrigated farm, a working plan of watershed management for good water supplies, and contrast of rainfall penetration and water retention on forested and denuded areas. Relief models of the Coweeta watershed project in North Carolina and the Sand Creek headwaters conservation project in Oklahoma were parts of the resources conservation exhibit.

President Eisenhower and Department of Agriculture officials study miniature and pictures of Coweeta Basin indicating resource conservation practices at the headwaters of streams. Front row, left to right, Assistant Secretary J. Earl Coke, President Eisenhower, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, and Under Secretary True D. Morse.

Two southern strawberries

Seedling crosses by USDA plant breeders and associated experiment stations have resulted in the release of two valuable new strawberry varieties—Dixieland and Pocahontas. The former variety was developed by USDA and the North Carolina Experiment Station and is a high-yielding early variety tested for use from New Jersey to Carolina and west to Arkansas. It rates high for the frozen-package trade. Pocahontas under replicated plantings at Beltsville, Md., made 474 crates of 24 quarts per acre, and it also rates well for the frozen-package trade. The Virginia Truck Experiment Station cooperated in its recent release. No plants are obtainable from USDA or the cooperating stations. Some cooperating nurseries will have a few plants for sale.

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Rural retirement

A NOTICEABLE LAG is evident in the acceptance of retirement by workers in rural areas. Farm folks, it is pointed out, value work as an end in itself, and many are reluctant to withdraw voluntarily from the labor force as they grow older.

But our rural sociologists give a better reason for it. They say that life in the country permits a reduced activity without the actual quitting of tasks. Moreover, various current pension plans and social-security legislation have not hitherto put much emphasis on rural-community retirement benefits. In cities where most of the jobs are covered by existing plans for pensions and assistance benefits, the case has been different—at least in a material sense.

Yet, despite these basic facts, there has been a substantial increase in the number of retired persons living in rural areas. Some part of this now happening in rural communities is traceable to the migration of urban retirees who choose to spend their remaining years of maturity in the pleasant or (to some) familiar surroundings of rural life.

But it is observed that problems arise from this shift of retirees countryward. Sometimes the communities do not readily accept or absorb them well. Again it is noted that the newcomers do not always fit as well into the rural scene as they are expected to.

Thus the emergence of the retirement problem in rural communities often makes itself felt in the communities themselves. It remains a direct challenge to such communities to make good use of the migrants. Many of them have successfully met the issue by organized planning in the growing field of gerontology, or the science of welfare for the elderly. Retirees bring a wide range of skills and experience, and older adults can well contribute to many phases of community life—both in work and play. More and more American communities are being geared to welcome Father Time as keenly as they smooth the pathway for the busy stork.

Plaque for Dr. Jones

Dr. Donald F. Jones, renowned hybrid corn breeder and geneticist of the Connecticut Experiment Station, was presented a plaque by Secretary Ezra Taft Benson on behalf of the New England Council, November 20. The plaque reads: "In recognition of an almost immeasurable contribution to the world's food supply by the development of double-crossed hybrid corn. With an imagination which delved below and soared above the findings of his predecessors, he translated the learning of the laboratory into the fruitfulness of the field." Secretary Benson was the principal speaker at breakfast in Boston. Members and 6 governors attended.

Home from Australia

Kenneth M. Gapen, Assistant Director of Information, in charge of radio and television, is back in Washington after conferring with about 250 radio and agricultural leaders, also leaders at the experiment stations and in the field. He found conditions good, and life enjoyable, but the first thing he asked for in San Francisco was a piece of American pie!

Marble halls to Main Street

MY ONLY excuse for soliciting sufficient space herein from your new editor, Roy Miller, is to let our readers know about a fine thing that happened to me as the time drew nigh for me to exchange office space in a marble hall for a humble spot somewhere on Main Street, Midwest.

On November 25 the thoughtful personnel of the Office of Information and its allied editors and writers in the Department staged a farewell party for Yours Truly on the sound stage of the Motion Picture Service. Director Webster made a gracious little speech referring to the period 20 years ago when my first USDA employment occurred, and my subsequent service. He thereupon handed me a superduper noiseless portable typewriter, a gift from several score of the employees, of all levels and all branches—hoping that it would help me to "continue to click." Owing to the surprise, I was not in the best of form for making acknowledgement, because smoke somehow gets into your eyes when the incense of friendship burns so high. Although only 25 percent of my working life has been spent in their association, far more than such portion of my happiest experiences revolve around the kind folks and gentle people of the USDA.—E. R. McIntyre.

Giddings, virus scientist, retires

Dr. Nahum J. Giddings, senior pathologist of the Division of Sugar Plant Investigations, at Riverside, Calif., retired November 30, after 24 years in Government, spent mostly in research on curly top, the virus disease that once threatened extinction of the western beet sugar industry. Born in Ira, Vt., educated at the Universities of Vermont and Wisconsin, he specialized on plant viruses. He discovered that curly top virus breaks up into strains, some more virulent than others, that strain 11 injures the most resistant varieties known, emphasizing the need for continued breeding research.

With other virus diseases, presence of one virus strain within a plant either precludes invasion of the plant by a related virus strain or interferes with the development of the second virus. Giddings found that the various curly top strains are mutually compatible, a sugar beet plant being able to harbor numerous strains. He was acting dean of the College of Agriculture, West Virginia University, 1921–22 and 1927–28, and was vice president of the American Phytopathological Society in 1922. He is the author of more than 50 important technical contributions.

Here's the "Green Book"

"STRENGTHENING American Agriculture Through Resource Conservation" is the name of a neat new Green Book, Program Aid No. 237, that tells essential things about the USDA program of soil, water, forest, and range conservation. In a brief foreword, Secretary Ezra Taft Benson invites full and frank discussion of views and goals.

Resource conservation is recognized as one of the foundation blocks in the structure of the national economy. Standards of living in towns and cities as well as on farms depend on protection and improvement of these resources. There are more people to feed, clothe, and house, and there is continuing need to increase production per acre.

To put the land to the uses to which it is best suited will require the most modern technologies. Final responsibility is placed on the owner of the land. Locally organized and locally directed groups, like soil conservation districts, provide effective mechanisms for productive programs. Federal and State agencies are responsible for assistance and leadership.

The Green Book lists three main resource-conservation jobs to do: (1) Accelerate both research and education, so that improvements can be passed quickly to those who need them. (2) Improve technical aid to landowners and operators in applying conservation plans, acre by acre, and watershed by watershed. (3) Encourage local leadership such as is provided by soil conservation districts, watershed organizations, and other community and neighborhood teams of people.

This resource-conservation program has high-priority. A copy of the Green Book can be obtained by writing to Inquiries and Distribution, OI.

Wind velocity test

Not exactly a machine-age test, possibly, but sort of "rule of thumb" is a suggestion forwarded by folks who want to know the lower velocities of the wind before starting to dust crops. Toss a handful of dust or blow smoke into the air. Then walk downwind with the cloud of dust or smoke. If you can keep up with it easily at a slow walk, the wind is moving at about 2 miles per hour. If it takes a fast walk to do it, the velocity of the wind is about 4 miles; and when you must run to keep up with the smoke or dust cloud, it's going at 10 miles an hour and all dusting should be stopped.

Possibly the "first"

Late in November there appeared what seems to have been the first official report put out in USDA which carried the imprint "Commodity Stabilization Service" instead of Production and Marketing Administration. It is entitled "The Fertilizer Situation for 1953–54," 11th in a series, by the Mobilization Activities Branch, CSS.

Good news from Kingstree

OUT OF KINGSTREE, South Carolina, comes a remarkable story of improvement in rural housing. A year ago, the General Education Board extended assistance to Negro farm women in establishing and equipping a demonstration house where small groups of the homemakers live for 5 days and learn the latest homemaking methods in a modern house.

This model house serves as a weekly vacation cottage for 4 or 5 women, accompanied by their county home demonstration agent. Each homemaker performs a different household chore every day, and studies modern homemaking and the use of modern equipment.

As the planners expected, when the women go home they miss the modern kitchen, or the washing machine, the bathroom, or other modern conveniences, and they are seldom satisfied until they acquire most of these facilities for their own homes.

Sherman Briscoe, of the Office of Information, spent some hours at the demonstration house, enjoyed the home comforts and well-cooked meals. Most of the food came from the excellent garden back of the cottage. Mrs. Marian B. Paul, State supervisor of Negro home demonstration work and founder of the demonstration house, read progress reports from 17 county home agents. As a result of living a week in the house, 30 women had bathtubs installed in their homes, and more than 40 had modernized their kitchens. Some housewives had built their own kitchen cabinets and laid tile on their floors. Mrs. Paul believes that more than a fourth of the 21,000 Negro farm owners in South Carolina will have modern kitchens and bathrooms in the next 5 years. Many of the farmers are also painting their houses and putting them into first-class condition.

Some of the Negro farmers attribute their progress in part to diversified farming. Part of the money from the different crops enables them to keep up steady improvement of the home. Similar improvement was noted by Mr. Briscoe in Georgia and Florida.

Passing of Dr. Rice

Prof. Emeritus James E. Rice, perhaps the best known educator in poultry subjects in the country, died in October at 88 years. He was the first head of a college poultry department and remained at his post for 31 years, retiring in 1934. He remained active all his life and he was called "a small, sandy-haired man coming by rapidly and going everywhere." Dr. Rice was hired for the job at Cornell by the then dean, Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey.

Readers' reminders

Improving a stick

A single improved log-grading stick for use as a visual aid in grading hardwood factory logs has been devised jointly by specialists at the Northeastern and the Southeastern Forest Experiment Stations. Detailed full-scale plans for this log-grading aid can be obtained from the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, 102 Motors Avenue, Upper Darby, Pa., or the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, 223 Federal Building, P. O. Box 2570, Asheville, N. C.

New issues from GPO

The Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, has a couple of interesting folder announcements. Ask their office for a special folder with titles of publications on electronics—radar, electricity, and radio and TV. They have also just announced a comprehensive review of all United States postage stamps from the first adhesive issued in 1847, through June 30, 1953. This illustrated paper-bound booklet costs 65 cents.

Credit for youth

Outlines of the proper thinking and information sources on numerous current financial problems facing farm youth have been assembled in a Leaders Guide for Credit Work with 4-H Clubs and YMW groups. Why we use money and credit, how credit helps beginning farmers, how loans are obtained and where to apply—these are some of the contents. James L. Robinson is the author. It is Circular E-39, revised, by Farm Credit Administration in cooperation with the Extension Service. Write for copies to FCA's Information and Extension Division.

Conservation meetings

Tips for the small local study club interested in broad angles of the conservation picture are found in a circular by Forest Service, How To Hold a Good Conservation Meeting, 6 pages processed. Topics and suggested program time sheets are included. Write direct to Forest Service's Division of Education and Information.

Sugar facts

USDA's Sugar Branch has issued agriculture Information Bulletin No. 111, a full discussion of the existing sugar program administered in the Department. Some historical backgrounds leading to the present form of legislation and the experiences of growers and processors under its terms and conditions are included.

For mountain shepherds

Circular No. 925 deals with profitable management of the 65 million acres of winter range in the intermountain country, where 4 to 5 million sheep graze each winter. Increasing Forage Yields and Sheep Production on Intermountain Winter Ranges is by Hutchings and Stewart, Forest Service range conservationists. Write Office of Information.

Windbreakers

Circular No. 924 has a wealth of information about establishment of shelterbelts in the almost treeless region of the Great Plains. It is by Ernest J. George, silviculturist with the Agricultural Research Service at U. S. Northern Great Plains Field Station, Mandan, N. Dak. The title is "Thirty-one Year Results in Growing Shelterbelts on the Northern Great Plains." It's listed for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, for 25 cents per copy.

Economy aids discovery

LACK OF FUNDS made a change necessary in the management of the Bureau of Dairy Industry herd from a schedule of 3-times-daily milkings for a 365-day lactation period to a system of 2 milkings daily for the first 305 days of the lactation period. This led to the discovery that adjustment figures used widely by many research workers for converting milk records of varying length to a common standard are faulty and of little practical value.

To maintain the continuity of experimental results during their changeover from 3 to 2 milkings daily, the usual adjustment figures were applied to the records. The result showed the fallacy of reliance on these standards for comparing records made under different management methods. The factors used were 0.7 for adjusting downward from 3 times and 365 days to 2 times and 305 days, and the figure 1.42 for the opposite upward adjustment.

Cows that made the records under both systems were used to make the comparison. When their 2-times milking 305-day records were adjusted to 3 times daily on a 365-day basis, the result was about 3,000 pounds more milk and 108 pounds more butterfat than when they were actually milked 3 times a day for 365 days. Just as obvious an error is seen in adjustments the other way—from 3 times daily and 365 days to 2 times daily and 305 days. It showed about 2,000 pounds less milk and 80 pounds less fat than the cows actually made when they were milked 2 times daily for 305 days.

Honor for Dr. Weber, Judge

Director A. D. Weber of the Kansas Experiment Station and dean of the College of Agriculture, Kansas State College, served for his sixth year as judge at the International Livestock Exposition held in Chicago early this month. He has been invited to serve as judge at the Smithfield Show in London, the first American so honored in connection with this important British event.

Dr. Weber was graduated from Kansas State College, taught there and at Nebraska, and took his Ph. D. degree at Purdue University. He has long had a national reputation for his ability in judging cattle, especially fat steers. Prior to choosing Dr. Weber, the International Livestock Exhibition had called in British judges. Dr. Weber, however, was selected again and again. He has been honored as judge in many other exhibitions in the United States and in Latin America, and his portrait was placed in the Saddle and Sirloin Club in Chicago. He was also twice elected president of the American Society of Animal Production.

Iddings Fellowship

The University of Idaho has established the Edward J. and Maud R. Iddings Research Fellowship in Agriculture. It carries a grant of $1,000. Dean Emeritus Iddings has served agriculture at Idaho for 35 years.

Farm facts first

NO GREATER need exists today in agriculture than a courageous, objective presentation of the economics of farm policy, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson recently told the convention of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.

"The challenge is yours—the obligation also," the Secretary declared. "All taxpayers who are sincerely interested in the future welfare of this great land will applaud such efforts.

"If the people understand what can and what cannot be done for agriculture by Government, they will be less likely to demand of their legislators and of their Secretary of Agriculture those things which are impossible to fulfill.

"I have profound faith in the judgment of people who have the facts. Let us help them learn the facts. . . . Only in this course can you meet the challenge of farmers today. . . . I ask only that you do not shirk the responsibility of helping farmers and the public generally to gain a true understanding of the facts involved in agricultural policies and programs.

"For the welfare of America, each citizen must develop a keener sense of responsibility for the solution of public questions—*all* public questions both within and outside of agriculture.

Brief and choice

DHIA Records

Figuring that the cost of feed for a dairy cow is about half the annual maintenance cost, the dairy herd improvement association cows making only 5,000 pounds of milk a year showed only $5 profit to their owners. The dairy herd improvement association cows as a whole averaged 9,192 pounds of milk in 1952. They consumed $165 worth of feed and returned $234 over feed cost, a net income of $69 per cow.

Proved bulls

Last year the artificial breeding units in the country owned or leased 2,598 bulls. Fully 953, or about 37 percent, had proved-sire records. Their daughters had averaged 11,176 pounds of milk and 473 pounds of butterfat, compared with 10,375 pounds of milk and 429 pounds of butterfat produced by the dams of these cows.

Talks on Latin America

Keith Himebaugh, former Director of Information, home from his 2-year mission to Central and South America where he went in connection with extension programs, gave a report to the USDA's chapter of Alpha Zeta, November 19.

"Milestones"

A new periodical, Milestones, is announced by the College of Agriculture at Storrs, Conn. Director W. B. Young says the publication will come popular style—"keeping farm folks informed to help them make the decisions that are necessary" for continued progress.

New Antibiotic found

Another antibiotic with great promise in curing plant diseases has been discovered by Bacteriologists Elizabeth McCoy, W. H. Peterson, and Robert M. Smith, at the laboratories of the College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin. It's called "oligomycin." It has characteristics not shared by other drugs in the antibiotic family of mold derivatives. It is harmless to bacteria but seems to destroy numerous kinds of plant fungi. For some time scientists have tried to find a way to control plant fungi without unduly harming helpful bacteria. An antibiotic that is selective in its work and will attack fungi should be a real boon to control numerous destructive plant diseases not yet thoroughly controlled. Oligomycin in preliminary trials seems to meet this goal. More careful studies are being made at the laboratory at Madison with this new antibiotic.

Mid-Century look-ahead

The Mid-Century Conference on Resources for the Future, held in Washington in December, was concerned with production, research on natural resources, and cooperation. The project is carried on under a Ford Foundation grant. Dr. H. C. Knoblauch and Dr. W. H. Garman, who attended from OES, report that several other USDA agencies were represented.

ARI-Agricultural Board

At the second annual meeting of the Agricultural Research Institute—Agriculture Board, November 23–24, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture J. Earl Coke was guest speaker. Research Administrator B. T. Shaw, and President J. H. Hilton, of Iowa State College also spoke. The new officers elected are: president, P. D. V. Manning, International Binerals and Chemicals Corp.; vice president, Dr. B. S. Clark, American Can Co.; secretary, Dr. M. Bethke, Ralston-Purina Co. Many station directors were in attendance.

Milk off-flavor review

Off-flavor of milk is one of the big problems of the dairyman. Anyone hitherto attempting to make a real study of this question and the cause and cure (if any) of these objectionable flavors in milk faced a maze of references based on research and opinion. A new review which tries to bring together brief summaries of principal findings of more than 300 research reports on off-flavors in milk and give a ready reference to such articles has been issued. D. R. Strobel, W. G. Bryan, and C. J. Babcock, dairy specialists in the Commodity Stabilization Service, are the authors.

Chicken, Delaware

"Delaware Chicken from Coast to Coast" is the title of a new leaflet containing recipes, tips on buying and keeping chicken, and the place of chicken in the diet. The Delaware is one of the newer breeds, developed particularly for meat production. Director G. M. Worrilow says the leaflet is part of the coordinated effort of the Extension Service and the Delaware State Poultry Commission.

M. W. Baker retires

M. W. Baker, who has been serving as Deputy Director of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch of PMA, retired November 20, after serving the Department for 30 years. He is a native of Jamestown, N. Y. After a period of school teaching and farming, Mr. Baker joined the Department in fruit and vegetable marketing inspection at Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1923. In 1944 he was put in charge of all such operations in the midwest area. He transferred from Chicago to Washington in 1946. Mr. Baker will take charge of private business interests at Columbus, Ohio.

Happy days, Mac!

THE ABSENCE of Elwood R. McIntyre's name from the editorial line of *USDA* is sure to be noted. "Mac's" counsel was always valuable to fellow employees, and often sought. His energetic direction of *USDA* has set a new high mark. In his retirement to Madison, Wis., it is hoped that Elwood McIntyre will enjoy again and again the living satisfactions of "Our Valley." That he will only bask in the sun on the nostalgic sweet-scented prairie, we can hardly believe; his interest in farm life and agricultural advancement is too deep-seated for him to sit idly by.

Mr. McIntyre became editor of the *USDA* in September 1951, succeeding T. Swann Harding. For nearly 20 years he had worked successively as cartoonist, writer and editor for newspapers, editorial assistant to Andy Hopkins at the University of Wisconsin, and State editor of the Wisconsin Farmer. In 1933 he came to the United States Department of Agriculture with Secretary Henry A. Wallace and Chester Davis. He was assigned to the Office of Information, and as special assistant to the Secretary, he wrote dairy-information articles for AAA. He returned to Wisconsin in 1935 and served on the Wisconsin Farmer and the Wisconsin Agriculturist until he reentered the Department, March 1945, as a member of the Office of Information. In Press Service, he was assigned to Farm Paper Letter and other duties, becoming editor of *USDA* in 1951. His basic rural humanity is reflected in his "Said on the Side" column and uncounted articles in the *USDA*, and in his Jeff MacDermid articles in "Better Crops With Plant Foods," a series that has lasted since 1927. He types with a "human touch."

What to call them

Assistant Secretary Coke has reminded the heads of agencies that the correct titles for top individuals in the Department by various classifications are important to remember. It's the Administrator of a Service. The Director of a Division, the Chief of a Branch, the Head of a Section, and the Supervisor of a Unit.

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